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TRACTS  
RELATING TO IRELAND,  
PRINTED FOR THE  
IRISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

VOL. I.



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# IRISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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**Patron:**

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND.

**President:**

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF LEINSTER.

**Council:**

*Elected May, 1841.*

THE EARL OF LEITRIM.

THE VISCOUNT ADARE, M. P.

LORD FITZGERALD AND VESCI.

LORD GEORGE HILL.

REV. JAMES H. TODD, D. D., *Secretary.*

REV. RICHARD BUTLER, M. A.

JOHN SMITH FURLONG, Esq., Q. C., *Treasurer.*

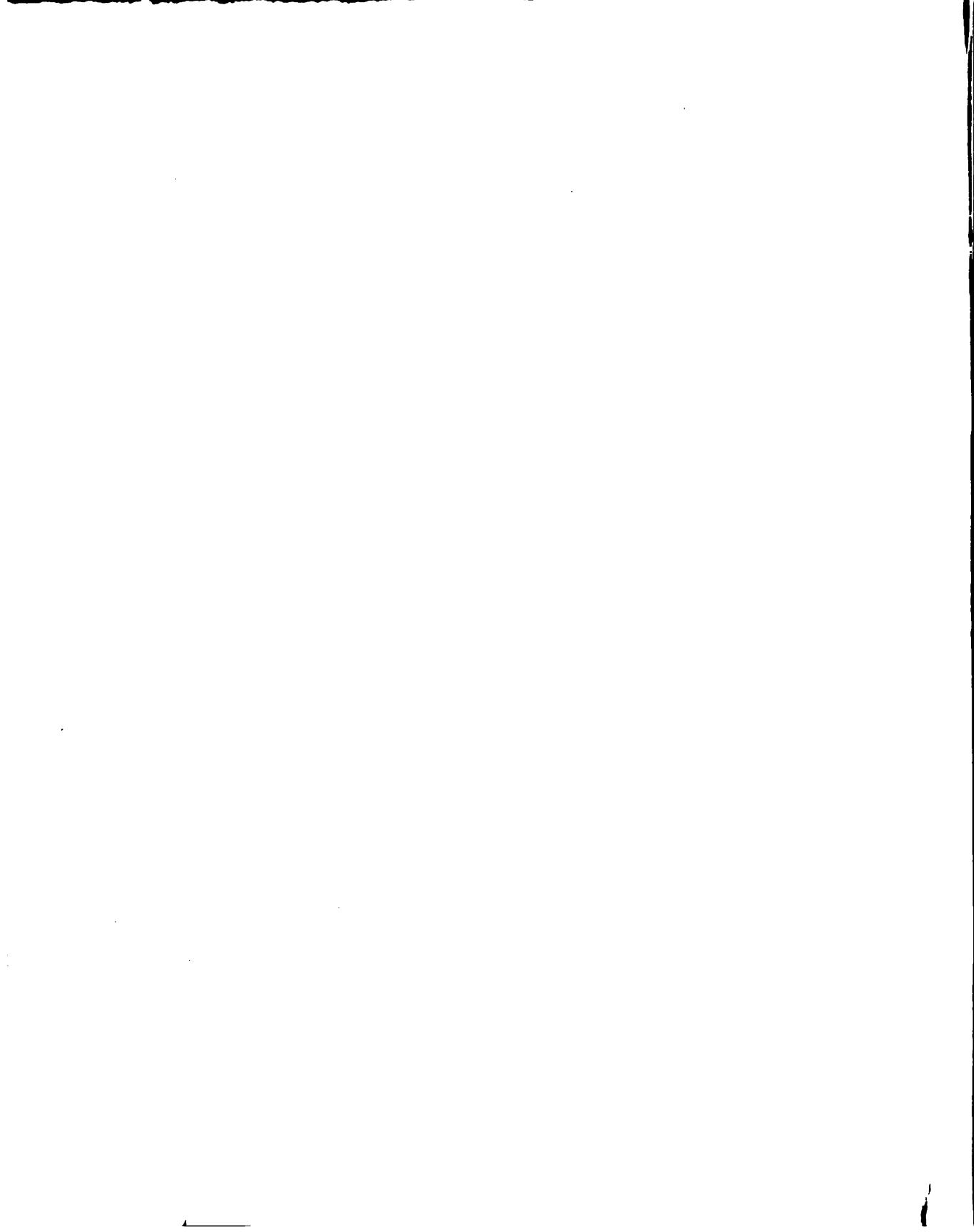
JAMES MAC CULLAGH, Esq., LL. D.

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JOSEPH HUBAND SMITH, Esq., M. A.

GEORGE PETRIE, Esq., R. H. A.

EDWARD CANE, Esq.



# IRISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

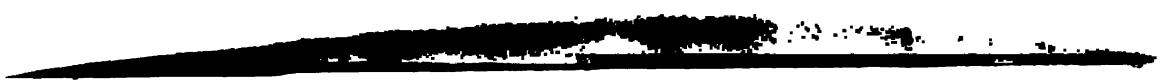
THE Council having discovered that the third Tract, which was intended for the present Volume, had been previously announced by the Camden Society, have resolved upon withholding it for the present, reserving for future consideration, whether it may be desirable to resume the Publication.

In the mean time they have determined upon issuing to the Members that part of the Volume which is ready, and contains;

- I. The Circuit of Ireland, by MUIRCHEARTACH MAC NEILL, A.D. 942. Edited by JOHN O'DONOVAN, Esq.
- II. A Brief Description of Ireland, 1590. Edited by AQUILLA SMITH, M.D., M.R.I.A.

brief statement of the prospects of the Society and of their own proceedings:

"They are happy to be able to say, that the favour with which the general design and objects of the Society have been received, and the highly respectable names that will be found in the accompanying list of the original Members of the Society, leave no doubt of the practicability of the undertaking, and supply every motive, that the certainty of success can hold out to your future Council, to exert themselves to the utmost in the prosecution of your designs.



# IRISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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At the First Annual General Meeting of the IRISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY, held in the rooms of the Natural History Society, No. 202, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of May, 1841.

JOHN SMITH FURLONG, Esq., Q. C., in the Chair.

The Rev. J. H. Todd, D. D., Secretary of the Society, announced that His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant had been graciously pleased to permit himself to be named Patron of the Society. Also that His Grace the Duke of Leinster, at the invitation of the Council, had accepted the office of President for the year now commencing.

The Secretary then proceeded to read the following REPORT from the Provisional Council:

"The Provisional Council of the Irish Archæological Society, on resigning their temporary office, deem it their duty to lay before this Meeting the following brief statement of the prospects of the Society and of their own proceedings:

"They are happy to be able to say, that the favour with which the general design and objects of the Society have been received, and the highly respectable names that will be found in the accompanying list of the original Members of the Society, leave no doubt of the practicability of the undertaking, and supply every motive, that the certainty of success can hold out to your future Council, to exert themselves to the utmost in the prosecution of your designs.

"The thanks of the Society are due to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, who, at a very early stage of its existence, was pleased to signify his intention of becoming a Member, and has since consented to accept the office of Patron of the Society.

"To His Grace the Duke of Leinster also your thanks are due, for the interest he has expressed in your design, and for the prompt and gracious manner in which he has condescended to comply with the request of the Council, by undertaking to fill the Chair of President for the year now commencing.

"But, notwithstanding the very encouraging support that the Society has received, the Council would strongly recommend that efforts be made to increase the number of Members, and particularly to induce a larger proportion of the gentry of Ireland to join the Society. For this purpose, it would be desirable that each Member should apply to his own private friends, or suggest to the Council the names of persons likely to feel an interest in the objects of the Society, in order that the subject may be officially brought before them by the Secretary. It is, in fact, the interest of every one who has already joined the Society, to enlarge the number of its Members, because the value and number of its publications must be in proportion to its income; and, therefore, upon the general income of the Society, or in other words, upon the number of its Members will depend the return which each Member will receive for his subscription.

"The Council have little doubt, from the patronage already given to the Society, that as soon as your first publication is in the hands of the Members there will be no difficulty in increasing your numbers, and they would therefore suggest, that a discretionary power be lodged in the hands of your future Council of enlarging the limit originally proposed to the number of Members, so as not to exceed five hundred. And here it may be remarked, in answer to some who have expressed surprise at any limit to the number of Members having been fixed in your Rules, while, at the same time, the importance of increasing your numbers is so strongly felt, that it is absolutely necessary to name some limit, and that as near as possible to the actual or probable number of your Members, in order that the Council may be able to determine the number of copies to be printed of each publication, and thus to avoid the useless expense of printing a larger number than is likely to be required for the use of the Society. By this arrangement the additional advantage is also gained, that those who join the Society after the announced limit is completed, will have

no

no reason to complain, if it should turn out that the earlier publications cannot be supplied to them.

"The first step taken by the Provisional Council, with a view to the future operations of the Society, was to put into the hands of Mr. O'Donovan and Mr. Curry, two scholars pre-eminently qualified for the task, the celebrated Glossary of Cormac Mac Cuillionan, King of Munster and Bishop of Cashel, who flourished at the end of the ninth century, and was killed in battle, A. D., 908. This curious repertory of ancient Irish is of incalculable value to all students of the obsolete part of the language, and will be indispensable hereafter to ourselves, if our Society should so far prosper as to be able to undertake the publication of our Brehon laws, and other difficult remains of the ancient literature of Ireland.

"Through the kindness of Mr. George Smith, a very ancient manuscript of Cormac's Glossary was placed at the disposal of the Council, and another very valuable MS. for the use of which the Society is indebted to George Petrie, Esq., has been adopted as the basis upon which the text of the work has been formed, by a careful collation with the MSS. deposited in the Libraries of the University and of the Royal Irish Academy. This collation has been already completed by Mr. O'Donovan, assisted by Mr. Curry, and from the text thus formed Mr. O'Donovan is at present engaged in preparing a translation and illustrative notes. Mr. Curry has also undertaken to examine other ancient glossaries, preserved in the University Library, by whose aid he has been enabled to throw much light on the obscurities of the original; and the Council have every reason to hope that the continuance of his labours will be crowned with still greater success. They would, therefore, strongly recommend it to their successors not to be in too great haste to publish this work, but to keep it by them in Mr. O'Donovan's hands, until it receives such accessions, from a full examination of all the other sources of information on the subject, which are or may be placed within his reach, as will render it as nearly complete as the nature of the case will admit.

"In the meantime, the Council have made provision to satisfy the literary cravings of the Society, and it is hoped that a volume of miscellaneous tracts will be ready for distribution among the Members, in about six weeks from the present time. This volume will contain three very curious and interesting tracts, the first of which, to be edited by Mr. O'Donovan, is an Irish poem,

written in the year 942, describing a journey undertaken by Muircheartach, Prince of Aileach, for the purpose of taking hostages from the native chiefs, who were most likely to oppose his accession to the throne of Tara, of which he was then the heir apparent. This poem will be published in the original, accompanied by a translation and notes, in which a mass of information, historical and topographical, the greater part of which was never before published, has been brought together in a manner highly creditable to Mr. O'Donovan's industry and learning. It will also be accompanied by a Map of Ireland, in which the names of the districts and places mentioned in the poem are given, and which may, therefore, be considered as a very correct representation of the geographical state of this country in the middle of the tenth century.

"The second tract in the volume will be edited by Dr. Aquilla Smith; it is a reprint of a very scarce tract printed in London in the reign of Elizabeth, and is a description of Ireland by an English settler named Payne, who had obtained ground in the County Cork, and who wrote evidently with a view to attract others of his countrymen to embark their capital in a similar speculation. For the use of this very rare tract the thanks of the Society are again due to Mr. George Smith.

"The third tract is an account of the war of King James the Second, in Ireland, written by Colonel Charles O'Kelly, one of the commanders in the army of that prince, and a very accomplished scholar. The tract will be edited by George Petrie, Esq., from a MS. which has recently been added to the collection of Trinity College.

"Great pains have been taken to render the typographical execution of the volume now in the Press creditable to the Society and to Ireland; and the Council can confidently promise that there will be no cause for complaint in that department. They have procured for their title page a beautifully executed head of Sir James Ware, taken from the engraving by Vertue; which they hope will be received as a tribute of respect to the memory of an antiquary, to whom more, perhaps, than to any other individual, if we except only the illustrious Primate Ussher, Irish literature and Irish history are indebted, not only for the information which is published to the world in his writings, but for the still more valuable service of having been the means of preserving, in an age in which such sources of learning were but little valued, the precious

precious remains of our ancient chronicles, and laws, and poetry. In his writings, too, as well as in those of Ussher, we have an eminent example of a calm and unprejudiced use of these fountains of history, in the true spirit of real learning, not distorted by any party bias, and influenced, as purely as can be expected, perhaps, from the weakness of our nature, by a sincere and manifest love of truth.

"The Council have also resolved upon getting an ornamented initial letter engraved for every Irish tract, or work, printed by the Society, to be taken from some remarkable Irish manuscript; and they hope by this means to collect some valuable specimens of ancient Irish calligraphy, which cannot fail to prove interesting to the Members of the Society, and which may also, perhaps, assist in removing the prejudice, or scepticism, that has unreasonably prevailed on the subject of the ancient literature of Ireland; a prejudice which is founded chiefly, if not entirely, upon ignorance, and which cannot better be assailed than by laying before the learned public specimens of what Irish artists of the middle ages really did effect; since it must be evident, that a people, whose literary remains are adorned with such exquisite designs of penmanship, could hardly have been the rude and ignorant barbarians that it has hitherto been the fashion to represent them. In the forthcoming volume there will be found an ornamented letter and head-piece, for which the Society are indebted to Dr. Aquilla Smith, which are accurately copied from the Book of Kells, in the library of Trinity College.

"There is but one other subject upon which the Council feel it necessary to make any observations in this Report; it is in reference to an objection which has been made against one of the Rules of the Society—that which prohibits the sale of our books to the public, and which confines their circulation to our own Members.

"The Rule has been adopted after the most mature consideration, and from a conviction of its expediency, grounded on the experience of other similar Societies. The object of this Society is not to publish works of amusement or entertainment to suit the popular taste, but to rescue from oblivion, and to preserve for future historians and philologists such ancient documents as could never otherwise, perhaps, have found a publisher; and yet, to the scholar, and for the interests of learning, and even as supplying the materials for those more popular works which may hereafter, perhaps, be founded upon them, it is most important

important that such documents should be printed, although in themselves they contain nothing to induce a bookseller, with any prospect of profit or remuneration, to undertake their publication.

"Now, if such works are, from time to time, printed by this Society, along with others of a more popular and generally attractive character, and if all the publications of the Society be offered for sale to the world, it is obvious that many will be induced to abstain from becoming Members, on the ground that they can procure such of the Society's publications as are of any interest to them, without being compelled to take those which are of a heavier or graver cast; and thus the income of the Society will be diminished, and its power of publishing the less popular, and more important publications, materially limited. In short, a Society that depends for its funds, in any great degree, upon the sale of its publications, will necessarily find itself bound to consider the popular taste, rather than the advantages of solid learning, in the selection of documents for publication; and must, in fact, be guided, more or less, by the same principles, and therefore circumscribed and limited in the same way, as a bookseller would be, who should undertake the publication of a series of such works, with a view to remuneration.

"The Council, therefore, are of opinion that this regulation is a vital one, and cannot be abandoned, without abandoning in a great degree, one of the principal objects for the attainment of which the Society was instituted."

The Report having been read, it was resolved—

"That the Report now read be adopted, and that the Council be requested to consider the expediency of printing and circulating it, with a view to make the objects of the Society better known."

The following Rules were then considered and adopted as the

#### FUNDAMENTAL RULES OF THE SOCIETY.

- I. The number of Members shall be limited to 500.
- II. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a President and Council of twelve Members, to be elected annually by the Society.
- III. Those Noblemen and Gentlemen who have already been admitted Members

Members, up to the first day of May, 1841, shall be deemed the *original Members* of the Society, and all future Members shall be elected by the Council.

IV. Each Member shall pay four pounds on the first year of his election, and one pound every subsequent year. These payments to be made in advance, on or before the first day of January, annually.

V. Such Members as desire it may become Life Members, on payment of the sum of thirteen pounds.

VI. Every Member whose subscription is not in arrear shall be entitled to receive one copy of each publication of the Society issued subsequently to his admission; and the books printed by the Society shall not be sold to the public.

VII. No Member who is three months in arrear of his subscription shall be entitled to vote, or to any other privileges of a Member; and any Member who shall be one year in arrear shall be considered as having resigned.

VIII. Any Member who shall gratuitously edit any book, approved of by the Council, shall be entitled to twenty copies of such book, when printed, for his own use: and the Council shall at all times be ready to receive suggestions from Members, relative to such rare books or manuscripts as they may be acquainted with, and which they may deem worthy of being printed by the Society.

IX. The Council shall have power to appoint officers; and to make by-laws not inconsistent with the fundamental laws of the Society.

The following Noblemen and Gentlemen were then elected as the President and Council of the Irish Archaeological Society for the ensuing year :—

**President.**

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF LEINSTER.

**Council.**

THE EARL OF LEITRIM.

VISCOUNT ADARE, M.P.

LORD FITZGERALD AND VESCI.

LORD GEORGE HILL.

REV. J. H. TODD, D.D.

REV. RICHARD BUTLER, M.A.

JOHN SMITH FURLONG, Esq., Q.C.

JAMES MAC CULLAGH, Esq., LL.D.

AQUILLA SMITH, Esq., M.D.

JOSEPH HUBAND SMITH, Esq., M.A.

GEORGE PETRIE, Esq., R.H.A.

EDWARD CANE, Esq.

It was proposed by JOSEPH HUBAND SMITH, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. DR. TODD, and resolved unanimously,

“ That the thanks of this Society be given to the Natural History Society, for the kind and handsome manner in which they have granted the use of their rooms for this Meeting.”

And then the Society adjourned.

## ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

1841.

[*Life Members are marked thus \*.*]

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**Patron:**

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND.

**President:**

\* HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF LEINSTER.

---

His Grace the ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY.  
His Grace the LORD PRIMATE of IRELAND.  
\* His Grace the DUKE of BUCKINGHAM.  
His Grace the DUKE of NORTHUMBERLAND.  
The MARQUIS of CONYNGHAM.  
The MARQUIS of DOWNSHIRE.  
The MARQUIS of ELY.  
The MARQUIS of ORMONDE.  
\* The MARQUIS of KILDARE.  
The EARL of BANDON.  
The EARL of CARLISLE.  
The EARL of CAWDOR.  
The EARL of CHARLEMONT.  
The EARL of DONOUGHMORE.  
The EARL of DUNRAVEN.  
The EARL of ENNISKILLEN.  
The EARL of FIFE.  
The EARL FITZWILLIAM.  
The EARL of LEITRIM.  
The EARL of MEATH.

The EARL of POWIS.  
The EARL of ROSSE.  
The VISCOUNT ACHESON, M.P.  
The VISCOUNT ADARE, M.P.  
The VISCOUNT DE VESCI.  
The VISCOUNT LISMORE.  
The VISCOUNT LORTON.  
The VISCOUNT MASSAREENE.  
The VISCOUNT MORPETH.  
\* The VISCOUNT PALMERSTON.  
The VISCOUNT POWERSCOURT.  
The VISCOUNT TEMPLETOWN.  
LORD GEORGE HILL.  
The LORD BISHOP of CASHEL, WATERFORD,  
and LISMORE.  
The LORD BISHOP of CLOGHER.  
The LORD BISHOP of CORK, CLOYNE, and  
ROSS.  
The LORD BISHOP of DEARY and RAPHOE.  
The LORD BISHOP of DOWN and CONNOR.

The LORD BISHOP OF ELPHIN.  
 The LORD BISHOP OF KILDARE.  
 LORD CARBERY.  
 LORD CREMORNE.

LORD FARNHAM.  
 LORD FITZGERALD and VESSEY.  
 LORD TRIMLESTOWN.

Abraham Abell, Esq., M.R.I.A., Cork.  
 William Antisell, Esq., Abbey-st., Dublin.  
 John Hopkins Armstrong, Esq., Fitzwilliam-square, Dublin.  
 Hugh Barton, jun., Esq., Regent-st., London.  
 Robert Bateson, Esq., Belview, Belfast.  
 Miss Beaufort, Hatch-street, Dublin.  
 Sir Michael Dillon Bellew, Bart., Mount Dillon, Galway.  
 Rev. William M. Beresford, Ballytore.  
 John Blachford, Esq., 36, Moorgate-street, London.  
 Maxwell Blacker, Esq., Q.C., Merrion-square, Dublin.  
 Loftus Bland, Esq., Pembroke-st., Dublin.  
 Bindon Blood, Esq., M.R.I.A., F.R.S.E., Edinburgh.  
 Beriah Botfield, Esq., M.P., M.R.I.A., London.  
 Right Hon. Maziere Brady, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, M.R.I.A.  
 Halliday Bruce, Esq., M.R.I.A., Dublin.  
 John Bruce, Esq., F.S.A., 17, King's Parade, Chelsea, London.  
 Rev. Doctor Brunton, Edinburgh.  
 Samuel Bryson, Esq., Belfast.  
 Rev. Samuel Butcher, A.M., Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin.  
 Rev. Richard Butler, A.M., Trim.  
 Robert Callwell, Esq., M.R.I.A., Herbert-place, Dublin.  
 Edward Cane, Esq., M.R.I.A., Dawson-st., Dublin.  
 George Carr, Esq., M.R.I.A., Mountjoy-sq., Dublin.  
 Rev. Joseph Carson, A.M., M.R.I.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin.

Rev. William Carus, A.M., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.  
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 Rev. Wm. Cleaver, A.M., Delgany.  
 Rev. Thomas De Vere Coneys, A.M., Professor of Irish in the University of Dublin.  
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 J. R. Cooke, Esq., Blessington-st., Dublin.  
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 Very Rev. Henry Cotton, LL.D., Dean of Lismore.  
 Thomas Coulter, Esq., M.D., M.R.I.A., Trinity College, Dublin.  
 James T. Gibson Craig, Esq., Edinburgh.  
 Rev. John Clarke Crosthwaite, A.M., Dean's Vicar, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.  
 Rev. Edward Cupples, LL.B., V.G. of Down and Connor, Lisburn.  
 Miss J. M. Richardson Currer, Eshton Hall, Yorkshire.  
 Rev. Robert Daly, A.M., Powerscourt.  
 C. Wentworth Dilke, Esq., 118, Sloane-street, London.  
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 W. C. Dobbs, Esq., Fitzwilliam-place, Dublin.  
 Major Francis Dunne, A.D.C., Brittas, Clonaslee.  
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The Knight of Glin, Limerick.

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Right Hon. the Knight of Kerry, Listowell.

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David Laing, Esq., Signet Library, Edin-  
burgh.

Henry Lanauze, Esq., College-green, Dublin.

Captain Thos. A. Larcom, R.E., M.R.I.A.,  
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John Lindsay, Esq., Cork.

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Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin.

Rev. Richard Low, Ahascragh, Galway.

John Low, Esq., Dublin.

Joseph Lowell, Esq., London.

Very Rev. J. P. Lyons, Lyons Port, Belmullet.

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Alexander M'Donnell, Esq., Dublin.

George M'Dowell, Esq., A.M., M.R.I.A.,  
Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin.

M'Gillicuddy of the Reeks.

James M'Glashan, Esq., Dublin.

Rev. John M'Hugh, Baldoyle.

John W. M'Kenzie, Esq., Edinburgh.

Rev. Thomas M'Neece, A.M., M.R.I.A.,  
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Sir Fred. Madden, Hon. M.R.I.A., British  
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Rev. George Maxwell, Askeaton.

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Dublin.

Rev. Charles H. Monsell, Coleraine.

William Monsell, Esq., Tervoe, Limerick.

Thomas Moore, Esq., Sloperton, Devizes.

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Joseph Neeld, Esq., M.P., Grosvenor-square,  
London.

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## WORKS PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION.

- I. The Book of Obits of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Christ's Church, Dublin: to be edited from the original MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, by the Rev. John Clarke Crosthwaite, M.A., Dean's Vicar in Christ Church, Dublin.
- II. The Battle of Moira, from an ancient Irish MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin: to be edited, with a Translation and Notes, by John O'Donovan, Esq.
- III. Grace's Annals of Ireland, a Latin MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin: to be edited, with a Translation and Notes, by the Rev. Richard Butler, A.M.
- IV. Cormac's Glossary, in the original Irish: to be edited, with a Translation and Notes, by John O'Donovan, Esq.
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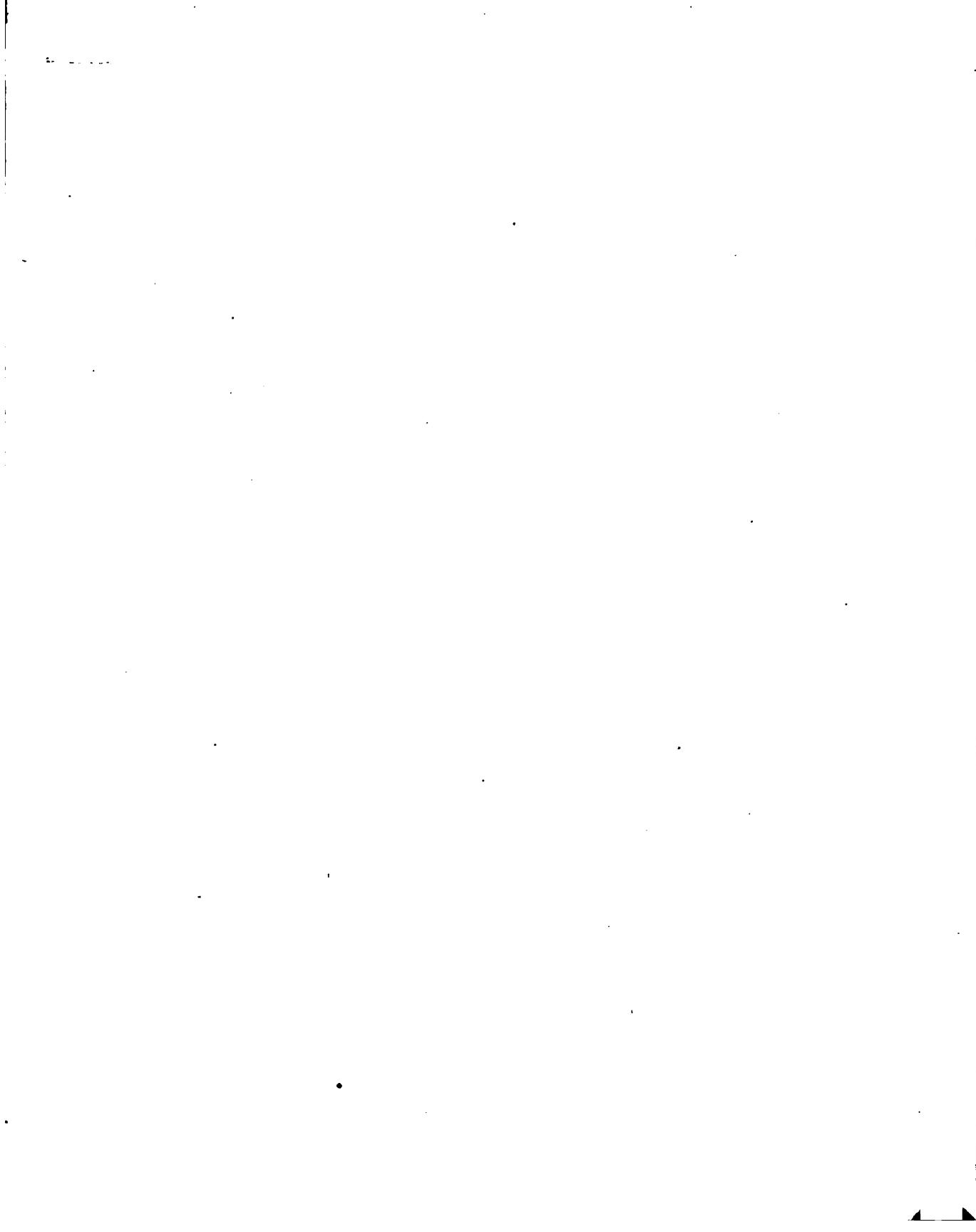


A MAP OF IRELAND.  
TO ILLUSTRATE THE CIRCUIT OF MULROYACH-MAT NEIL.



FOR THE IRISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

184





THE  
CIRCUIT OF IRELAND,

BY

MUIRCHEARTACH MAC NEILL,

PRINCE OF AILEACH;

A POEM,

WRITTEN IN THE YEAR DCCCCXLII.

BY

CORMACAN EIGEAS,

CHIEF POET OF THE NORTH OF IRELAND.

---

NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME PRINTED,

WITH A TRANSLATION AND NOTES,

BY

JOHN O'DONOVAN.

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DUBLIN:  
FOR THE IRISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

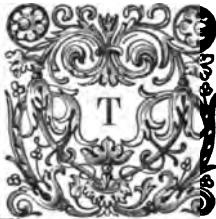
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## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

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HE following Poem is now translated and printed for the first time. The text has been obtained from two copies, the only MSS. of it known to the translator, which are preserved, the one in the *Leabhar Gabhala*, or Book of Invasions of Ireland, the other in the Genealogical Book of the O'Clerys, both deposited in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy. These books were transcribed by the eminent antiquary Peregrine O'Clery, chief of his name, who was one of the assistants to his relative Michael O'Clery in compiling the celebrated chronicle, called the Annals of Donegal, or more commonly the Annals of the Four Masters, and also the three works described by Colgan in the preface to his *Acta Sanctorum*. The copy of the *Leabhar Gabhala*, above mentioned, is beyond a doubt, the original MS. of the third of these works. Colgan (*lic. cit.*) has given the following account of its contents:—"Tertius agit de primis Hiberniae inhabitatoribus, de successivis ejus a diluvio per diversas gentes conquæstibus sive expugnationibus, de regibus interea regnantibus, de bellis et præliis inter hos obortis, aliisque publicis Insulæ casibus et eventibus ab anno post diluvium 278, usque ad annum Christi 1178."

The poem itself, as stated in this work, was composed by Cormacan Eigeas, or Cormacan the *Poet*, who died in the year 948.<sup>a</sup> He was chief poet of the North of Ireland, and the friend and follower of Muircheartach or Murtogh, commonly called Muircheartach of the Leather Cloaks, from the circumstance

of

<sup>a</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 946, which date corresponds with A.D. 948.

of his having provided coverings of leather for his soldiers on the expedition to which this poem relates, as shall be presently shewn.

Muircheartach was King of Aileach, and as such was entitled to the tributes of all the province of Ulster, with the exception of Tulach Og,<sup>b</sup> Craebh,<sup>c</sup> Moy Ith,<sup>d</sup> Inishowen,<sup>e</sup> and Tirconnell, which were free territories,<sup>f</sup> and he was, moreover, by birth, the next heir to the throne of Ireland. In the year 941, after a brilliant career of victory over the Danes of Dublin, and after having reduced to subjection for the monarch, (who was then an old man, and died soon after, in 944,) the native princes of Ossory and the Desies, he determined by a bold movement to facilitate his peaceful accession to the throne, by impressing the conviction on the minds of the Irish in general, that he was the next most powerful, as well as the most legitimate, heir to the monarchy then existing. Accordingly, in the depth of winter, when he knew that his opponents, not expecting such a movement, were unprepared to make any formidable resistance to it, he set out with an army of a thousand chosen men to make the circuit of Ireland, for the purpose of exacting hostages from all such chieftains as he supposed were likely to oppose his future elevation. In this expedition he was eminently successful: he led the provincial kings or their sons captive, and after having detained them as hostages for five months at his palace of Aileach, he sent them to Donnchadh, or Donogh, the supreme king of Ireland, in testimony of his own loyalty, and to shew that he made no pretensions to the throne during the life-time of the reigning monarch. Donnchadh, however, resolving not to be outdone in generosity, refused to accept the hostages thus obtained; and there is every reason to believe, though it is nowhere distinctly stated, that they were conducted back to Aileach and detained there until the death of Muircheartach, which occurred in the year 943.

It appears certain, from the poem itself, that on this journey of Prince Muircheartach, he was attended by Cormacan, its author, and that the poem was composed shortly after their return to Aileach. The date of its composition is therefore

<sup>b</sup> Now Tullyhoge, in the present county of Tyrone.

of Donegal.

<sup>c</sup> A territory in the present county of Derry, in latter ages belonging to a branch of the family of O'Kane.

<sup>e</sup> A barony in the present county of Donegal, formerly a part of Tyrone.

<sup>d</sup> Now the barony of Raphoe, in the county

<sup>f</sup> See Leabhar na g-Ceart, in Lib. Lecan, fol. 188, p. a. col. a.

therefore absolutely determined to the year 942, for it possesses internal evidence of having been written while Muircheartach was still alive, and yet not for some months after his return with the hostages, since it records the fact of their having been sent to King Donnchadh, which it also expressly says did not happen for five months after Muircheartach's return.

These dates are determined in accordance with the chronology of the *Annals of Ulster*, corrected by the addition of one year to each date, so as to bring the years of our Lord into agreement with the lunar and solar cycles given in the same annals. The *Annals of the Four Masters* place each event two years earlier than the dates given in the corrected chronology of the *Ulster Annals*; and they appear in this to have followed the authority of an ancient poem (which will be quoted in the course of these remarks) in which the year 941 is given as the date of Muircheartach's death. But this date does not agree with the days of the week as given in the *Annals of Ulster*, or by the *Four Masters* themselves; the former annals, for example, record that Muircheartach was killed on Sunday, the 4th of the Kalends of March, in the year 942; but the 4th of the Kalends of March did not fall on Sunday in that year, but in the year 943, which is the true date intended by the annalist. The date assigned to this event in the *Annals of the Four Masters* is the 4th of the Kalends of March, in the year 941, but the day of the week is not added. If, however, the *Ulster Annals* be correct as to the day of the week, the year 941 given by the *Four Masters* cannot be at all correct, for in that year the 4th of the Kalends of March fell on Friday.<sup>8</sup>

The comparative correctness of the dates in these two collections of annals, namely, of Ulster and of the *Four Masters*, about this period, may be more distinctly tested by another entry found in both, recording Muircheartach's victory over the Danes at the Bridge of Cluain na g-Cruimther. Both agree that this victory was gained on a Thursday, the 28th of December, which actually fell

on

\* It is stated in Mageoghegan's Translation of the *Annals of Clonmacnoise*, that Muircheartach was killed in the year 936, "on Shrovetide Sunday." But the chronology of these annals is about this period seven years antedated, and the translator has interpolated the work in many places. It is possible,

therefore, that "Shrovetide Sunday" may be a mistake for *Mid-lent Sunday*, which was certainly the day on which Muircheartach was killed, for the 4th of the Kalends of March was *Mid-lent Sunday* in the year 943, which is the true date of his death.

on that day of the week in the year 926, the date assigned in the Annals of Ulster; but the Annals of the Four Masters incorrectly place this event in 924, in which year the 28th of December fell on Tuesday. And hence, as Dr. O'Conor and Dr. Lanigan have already shown, the Annals of the Four Masters are about this period antedated by two years, though at a later period they are only one year antedated, and after the eleventh century their chronology becomes correct.<sup>h</sup>

Having premised so much with reference to the date of this poem, we may now proceed to bring together such notices of its hero as are to be found in the Annals of the Four Masters, following, however, the corrected chronology of the Annals of Ulster.

We first meet him in the year 921, in company with another chieftain, engaged in successful resistance to the inroads of the Danes:—

“The country was plundered in every direction by Godfrey, the grandson of Imar, namely, westwards as far as Inis Labhradha, eastwards as far as the River Bann, and northwards as far as Magh-Uillsen; but the army that went to the North was opposed by Muircheartach, the son of Niall, and by Aignert, the son of Murchadh, who defeated the Danes and slew great numbers of them; a few, however, escaped in the darkness of the evening.”<sup>i</sup>

Five years after this, (A.D. 926), he gained two other victories over the same formidable enemies:—

“The defeat of the Danes by Muircheartach, the son of Niall, at Snamh Aighnech *ubi cc. decollati sunt?*”<sup>j</sup>

“A victory gained over the Danes by Muircheartach, the son of Niall, and the Ulidians, at the Bridge of Cluain na g-Cruimther, on the 28th day of December, being Thursday; where were killed 800 of the Danes, besides their chieftains, Albdan, the son of Godfrey, Aufer, and Roilt.<sup>k</sup> The other half of them

<sup>h</sup> The Annals of Clonmacnoise also, though they are in many instances seven years antedated before the 11th century, are thenceforward very nearly correct. There is a defect in all our copies of the Annals of Tighearnach, from A. D. 786 to 975, in which is unfortunately included the period of Muircheartach's life and actions.

<sup>i</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 919. Annal. Ulton. ad ann. 920 [921.]

<sup>j</sup> Annal. Ulton. ad ann. 925 [926,] and poem of Flann on the Kinel Owen.

<sup>k</sup> Dr. O'Conor is mistaken in his version of this passage in the Annals of the Four Masters; he renders it thus:—“In quā occisi sunt octingenti duces, et Albdanus

them were besieged for a week at Ath Cruithne, until Godfrey, lord of the Danes, came to their assistance from Dublin.”<sup>1</sup>

The victory at the Bridge of Cluain na g-Cruimther is thus more distinctly recorded in the Annals of Ulster at the year 925, [926]:—

“ The fleet of Lough Cuan [Strangford Lough] took up their station at Linn Duachaill under the command of Alpthann, the son of Gothbrith [Godfrey] in *Prid: Non: Septemb.* A victory was gained by Muircheartach, the son of Niall, at the Bridge of Cluain na g-Cruimther in *quinta feria, in quint: Kal: Jan:* where Alpthan, the son of Gothbrith, was slain with a great slaughter of his army. The other half of them were besieged for a week at Ath Cruithne, until Gothbrith, king of the Danes, came from Dublin to relieve them.”

The next year (927) we find him engaged in a deadly feud with a native Irish chieftain, and also with Donnchadh, monarch of Ireland:—

“ Goach, the son of Dubh-Roa, lord of Cianachta Glinne Gemhin,<sup>m</sup> was slain by Muircheartach, the son of Niall.

“ Donnchadh, the grandson of Maoileachlainn, was prevented from celebrating the fair of Tailteann<sup>n</sup> by Muircheartach, the son of Niall, in consequence of a challenge of battle which was between them: but God separated them without slaughter or bloodshed.”<sup>o</sup>

His

filius Godfredi, Auferus et Roiltus.” Eight hundred *leaders* seems a large number to be slain in one engagement; and accordingly Mr. Moore, in his account of this battle, alters it to *eighty*.—Hist. of Ireland, vol. ii. p. 69. But the Irish will not bear either version. *Ou in po mafbaic oct ccéo imo tcoipeacail .i. Albdann mac Tótpat, Aufer, agus Roilt.* The true version of these words is given above; and in the Annals of Inishfallen, where the same words in the original occur (ad ann. 926), they are correctly translated by Dr. O’Conor. Eight hundred was the total number of the slain on the side of the Danes, together with three of their leaders, Albdann, Aufer, and Roilt.

<sup>1</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 924. Annal. Ulton. ad ann. 925 [926.] Book of Leinster, fol. 13, a. b.

and Leabhar Gabhala of the O’Clerys, p. 211.

<sup>m</sup> Cianachta Glinne Gemhin, is the ancient territorial name of the present barony of Keenagh, forming the N. W. part of the county of Londonderry. The River Roa, from which this chieftain’s father took his name of Dubh-Roa, or Black man of the Roa, flows through this barony, dividing it into two nearly equal parts.

<sup>n</sup> Now Teltown, in the county of East Meath, situate on the river Sele, now the Blackwater, midway between the towns of Kells and Navan. See Ordnance Map of the parish of Donaghpatrick, on which the site of the fair and sports of Tailteann is shewn.

<sup>o</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 925. Annal. Ulton. ad ann. 926 [927.] and Flann’s poem on the Kinel Owen.

His quarrel with Donnchadh, however, still continued, for it is recorded in the Annals of the Four Masters, at the year corresponding to A. D. 929, that "An army was led by Donnchadh to Liathdruim<sup>p</sup> against Muircheartach the son of Niall, but they separated without bloodshed or coming to blows."<sup>q</sup>

Another victory over a Danish chieftain, who had a fleet on Lough Neagh, is recorded at the year 932:—

"Torolbh, the Earl, was killed by Muircheartach, the son of Niall, and the Dalaradians."<sup>r</sup>

In the next year (933) we find this heroic prince defeated in one battle by a native prince, and victorious in another against the united forces of the Ulidians and the Danes:—

"A victory was gained at Magh Uatha<sup>s</sup> by Fergal, the son of Domhnall, and by Siuchfraidh, the son of Uathmaran, i. e. the son of the daughter of Domhnall, over Muircheartach, the son of Niall. In the fight Maolgarbh, son of Gairbith, lord of Derlas,<sup>t</sup> and Conmal, the son of Bruadran, and many others, were slain . . . . Matadhan, son of Aedh, with the Ulidians, and Amlaff, the son of Godfrey, with the Danes, plundered and wasted the province [Ulster], westwards as far as Sliabh Beatha,<sup>u</sup> and southwards as far as Mucnamha;<sup>v</sup> but they were opposed by Muircheartach, the son of Niall, and a battle was fought between them in which Muircheartach gained the victory, and there were left with him two hundred *heads* [of the enemy] besides prisoners and spoils."<sup>w</sup>

The Annals of Ulster record the same fact, but give 1200 as the number of the enemy slain by Muircheartach.<sup>x</sup>

In

<sup>p</sup> *Liathdruim* is the Irish name of the village of Leitrim in the County Leitrim.

<sup>q</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 927. Annal. Ulton. ad ann. 928 [929.]

<sup>r</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 930. Annal. Ulton. ad ann. 931 [932,] and Flann's poem on the Kinel Owen.

<sup>s</sup> *Magh Uatha* is a plain in Meath, but the name is now lost.

<sup>t</sup> A territory lying to the east of the River Bann in Ulidia.

<sup>u</sup> A celebrated mountain on the frontiers

of the counties of Monaghan and Fermanagh, of which a good view is obtained from the town of Clones. It still retains its ancient Irish name, but is anglicized Slieve Beagh.

<sup>v</sup> Now Mucknoe, near Castle Blayney, in the county of Monaghan. This place was never identified with history before.

<sup>w</sup> Ann. IV. Mag. ad ann. 931, and Flann's poem on the Kinel Owen.

<sup>x</sup> Ann. Ult. ad ann. 932 [933.] The poem of Flann makes 240 *heads* the amount of the slain, with which the Leabhar Gabhala agrees.

In 938, Muircheartach and Donnchadh, the monarch of Ireland, laid aside their differences, and united their forces against the Danes of Dublin:—

“A challenge of battle between Donnchadh, the King of Ireland, and Muircheartach, the son of Niall Glundubh, lord of Aileach: until they made peace with each other; after which Donnchadh and Muircheartach, and all the forces of both fully assembled, went to lay siege to the Danes of Dublin, so that they spoiled and plundered all that was under the dominion of the Danes from Dublin to Ath-Truisten.”<sup>y</sup>

In the year 939 the Danes plundered the Royal Palace of Aileach, and led Muircheartach captive to their ships on Lough Swilly; but he made his escape from them soon after, to the great joy of the Irish:—

“Aileach was plundered by the Danes, who conveyed Muircheartach, son of Niall, as a prisoner to their ships. But God redeemed him from them [soon after.]”<sup>z</sup>

In 940 we find Muircheartach and the monarch Donnchadh again in alliance:—

“An army was led by King Donnchadh and by Muircheartach, the son of Niall, into Leinster and Munster, until they received their hostages.”<sup>a</sup>—

The next year (941) is particularly rich in the exploits of this prince. In the early part of the year he ravaged the territories of Ossory and Desies, and compelled their chieftains to submit to his arms. He then made a naval expedition to the Hebrides, and returned with great booty: and, hearing that Callaghan Cashel, King of Munster, had slaughtered the inhabitants of the Desies for having submitted to him, he lost no time in revenging such an outrage, and set out in the winter of the same year on the expedition to which the following poem relates.

These events are briefly recounted in Flann's poem on the History of the Kinel Owen, and are thus recorded by the native chroniclers, as collected by the Four Masters:—

“Muircheartach, the son of Niall, with the men of Fochla<sup>b</sup> and Bre-gia,

<sup>y</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 936. Annal. Ult. ad ann. 937 [938]. Ath-Truisten is a ford on the River Greese, near Athy.

<sup>z</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 937. Annal. Clonmac. ad ann. 939.

<sup>a</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 938. Ann. Ulton. ad ann. 939 [940].

<sup>b</sup> Fochla, more generally Fionn Fochla, was the name of a territory in the North of Meath, the ancient inheritance of the O'Ruaidhri,

gia,<sup>c</sup> went into the territories of Ossory and the Desies, and plundered and ravaged the entire country as far as Les Ruadhrach, so that the inhabitants submitted to him.

"Muircheartach, the son of Niall, sailed with a fleet to the Insi Gall [the Hebrides] from which he carried off much plunder and booty, after having vanquished and subdued the inhabitants.

"The Desies were slaughtered by Callaghan, [King of Munster,] and the men of Munster, because they had submitted to Muircheartach, the son of Niall. He slew two thousand of them together with Ceilechar, the son of Cormac, Maolgorm, the son of Giphlechan, Segda, the son of Oebelan, and Cleireach, the son of Sesta, [all chiefs of the Desies].

"The Desies and Ossorians gained a victory over the King of Cashel; during the battle many were slain.

"After hearing this, Muircheartach assembled the race of Conall and Eoghan, and all the inhabitants of the North, at Aileach, and he selected one thousand of the chosen heroes of Fochla<sup>d</sup> and made a circuit of Ireland, keeping his left hand to the sea until he arrived at Dublin, and he brought Sitric, the Danish Lord of Dublin, with him as a hostage. He afterwards proceeded into Leinster, where the Lagenians at first resolved to oppose him, but finally agreed to submit to him. He took Lorcan, the King of Leinster, with him [as a hostage]. He next went to Munster, and the men of Munster were in readiness on his arrival to give him battle, but they ultimately resolved to give up their King, Callaghan, and Muircheartach put a fetter upon him. He afterwards proceeded to Connaught, where Concobhar, the son of Teige, came to meet him, but no fetter

according to the topographical poem of O'Dugan. But the word *focló* also signifies the *north*, and is often applied by the annalists to designate the North of Ireland. It is not easy, however, to determine in what sense the annalist employs the word here. In the Annals of Clonmacnoise, as translated by Connell Mageoghegan, it is stated that Muircheartach went on this occasion, with the forces of the *North*, which might be a mistake of that translator, as the original annalist might have intended the word to apply to

the territory of Fochla, in Meath.

<sup>c</sup> See note on line 38 of the poem.

<sup>d</sup> It would seem almost certain that in this passage the word Fochla must be employed to signify the North of Ireland; in the record of this transaction given in Mageoghegan's Annals of Clonmacnoise, it is stated that it was not the men of the North, but the King's forces, which went with him to Cashel; but this is contrary to the evidence of this poem, which states that they were of the race of Eoghan, and consequently located in the North.

fetter was put upon him. He then returned home to Aileach, carrying these kings with him as hostages, and they were for nine [*recte* five] months feasting there. And at the end of that time he sent the hostages to Donnchadh, King of Ireland, because it was he who reigned at Tara, and the kingdom was his. The following quatrain was composed concerning the taking of Callaghan:

“Muircheartach went to the South,  
To the beautiful chalk-white strong Cashel,  
So that he brought with him Callaghan of Troops;  
He would accept of no other hostage.”<sup>e</sup>

His death in the year 941, corresponding to A. D. 943, is thus recorded in the Annals of the Four Masters:

“Muircheartach of the Leather Cloaks, the son of Niall Glundubh, Lord of Aileach, the Hector of the West of Europe in his time, was killed at Ath-Fhirdia,<sup>f</sup> by Blacar, the son of Godfrey, Lord of the Danes, on the 26th day of March. It was in lamentation for him that the following lines were composed:

“Vengeance and want will prevail  
Against the race of Conn for ever;  
Alas, since Muircheartach does not live,  
The Country of the Gael will be always an orphan.”

“Armagh was plundered by the same Danes after the killing of Muircheartach. Mughron composed the following:

“One, nine hundred, four times ten,  
Since Christ was born of virgin birth,  
Are the exact number of years  
To the death of the great Muircheartach.”<sup>g</sup>

The corresponding record of the Ulster Annals, upon which some remarks have already been made, is as follows:

“Muircheartach of the Leather Cloaks, the son of Niall, King of Aileach, and Hector of the West, was killed by the Gentiles [Pagan Danes]; i. e. by Blacar,

<sup>e</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 939. Annal. Vid. O'Flaherty, Ogygia, p. 280. Ussher, Pri-Ulton. ad ann. 940 [941]. mord. p. 857.

<sup>f</sup> Now Ardee, in the County of Louth. <sup>g</sup> Annal. IV. Mag. ad ann. 941 [943].

Blacar, the son of Godfrey, King of the Danes at Glassliathan, near Cluain cain,<sup>b</sup> in the territory of Ferross,<sup>1</sup> on the first day of the week, the fourth of the Kalends of March."<sup>j</sup>

These extracts contain all that is known of Muircheartach, except that he was first married to Flanna, the daughter of Donnchadh, King of Ireland, and after her death, which happened, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, in the year 938 [*recte* A.D. 940] to Dubhdara, the daughter of Kellach, Chief of Ossory, who was the Queen mentioned in the following poem.

His exploits are also briefly recounted in a poem on the Triumphs of the Kinel-Owen, or Descendants of Eoghan, the son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, composed by Flann of the Monastery, who flourished shortly after the time of Muircheartach. A copy of this poem is preserved in the Book of Glendalough, or, as it should perhaps be more correctly called, the Book of Leinster, (fol. 147, b. a.) a MS. of the twelfth century, now preserved in the MS. Library of Trinity College, Dublin. Fifteen stanzas or quatrains of this poem relate to the exploits of Muircheartach, but they are not recounted in the same order in which they occur in the Annals of Ulster or of the Four Masters. The first exploit mentioned in the poem is his interruption to the fair of Tailteann; the second, his making the circuit of Ireland, to which Cormacan's poem relates, when he took all their hostages, among whom was Callaghan Cashel; the third, his conquest of the Danes of Snamh Aighneach; the fourth, his defeat of the Danes of Loch Cuan; the fifth, his victory over Matadhan and Amlaff, who had plundered the province as far as Sliabh Beatha; the sixth, the killing of the Lord Torolbh who had a fleet on Lough Neagh; the seventh, his devastation of the Insi Gall, or Hebrides; the eighth, his subjugation of the rebellious inhabitants of Cianactha Glinne Gemhin, and his killing of their chieftain Goach, the son of Dubh-Roa; the ninth, his slaughter of two hundred of the Danes, the day

<sup>b</sup> Glassliathan was the name of a place near the Church of Cluaincain, now Clonkeen, situated a few miles to the north of the town of Ardee, in the county of Louth. The testimony of the Annals of Ulster must be here preferred to that of the Annals of the Four Masters, in which AT Ardee is no doubt a mistake for NEAR Ardee.

<sup>1</sup> A famous territory in Oriel, comprising the parish of Clonkeen, in the county of Louth, and extending thence westwards, so as to embrace the present town of Carrickmacross, [i. e. the rock in the plain of the Ferross], in the county of Monaghan.

<sup>j</sup> Annal. Ulton. ad ann. 942 [943].

day on which they plundered Armagh; the tenth, his killing of Kineth Caur, King of Ive-Leary, in Meath; and the eleventh and last, his slaughter of the Ulidians, when he carried off three hundred of their heads.

It is curious that in this poem the death of Muircheartach, or the manner of it, is not mentioned; but the object of the poem was to give a catalogue of the triumphs of the great kings and warriors of the race of Eoghan, and, therefore, does not take any notice of their disasters or deaths.

His character is eloquently drawn from these materials by the venerable Charles O'Conor, of Belanagare, who may well be pardoned if, in his zeal for the honour of his country and her ancient chieftains, he has somewhat exaggerated the merits of a hero, certainly most eminent in his day for consistent patriotism and valour, and who had not received that justice from the popular historians of Ireland to which he seems to have been in all fairness entitled.

O'Conor's account of him is as follows:

"Two extraordinary characters distinguish these times: their rank, their birth, and their abilities, would bring them forward, and give them the lead in times of the greatest eclat: *Callaghan*, or *Cellachan*, of *Cashel*, King of *Munster*; and *Murkertach*, the *Roydamna* we have just mentioned: the one was artful, insinuating, and popular; the other generous, resentful, and sincere. *Cellachan* turned out an enemy to his country; *Murkertagh* sacrificed every just resentment to its interests. Having taken such different sides, the one endeavoured to ensnare the other, by negociation, and became the victim of his own treachery. *Murkertagh* seized on him, in the midst of his own province, and brought him a captive to *Tyrone*. Never did one enemy experience more generosity in another.

"MURKERTAGH made improvements in the art of war. His character lies entombed in the history of a people, hardly enquired after in our own time. He had as great a genius for war, as any man that this island has, perhaps, ever produced. The endowments of his heart were still greater. He, for some time, valued himself and his party too much; but loving his country more, he relented, and reconciled himself to his sovereign and brother-in-law" [*recte* father-in-law.] "Thenceforward he never relapsed into faction. Of all enemies, he was the most generous; of all commanders, the most affable. He never descended from his dignity; but reconciled familiarity to a rank, which, in the ordinary course of things, must be kept separate from it. Elevated, benevolent, and captivating, he was unhappily

unhappily taken off, at a time when his character put him in possession of a power, which probably would have relieved his country from bondage.”\*

Some brief remarks shall now be made on the appellation of “Muircheartach na g-Cochall g-Croicionn,” or “Muircheartach of the Leather Cloaks,” by which this prince is distinguished in Irish history. O’Conor, in the passage just cited, speaks of the “improvements in the art of war” made by Muircheartach: and refers in a note to the leathern cloaks (which he supposes to have been a sort of armour) as his authority for the statement: “these were,” he says, “leathern coverings impenetrable to the arrows and javelins of the enemy.”

That this is incorrect appears most clearly from the following poem, in which the leather cloaks are frequently mentioned, and particularly from lines 99–104, where it is distinctly stated, that when the troops of Muircheartach were drawn up to oppose the forces of the renowned Callaghan of Cashel, their first care was *to divest themselves* of their cloaks:

“ We cast our cloaks off us  
As became the subjects of a good king.”

It is obvious, therefore, from this passage, that they regarded their cloaks, not as a protection against the arrows and javelins of the enemy, but as an incumbrance, which it became the subjects of a good king to throw off when they were called upon to contend with the most inveterate and powerful enemy of that good king then in Ireland, and whom it was their duty to oppose with the utmost dexterity and vigour.

The real use of these leathern coverings, however, may be gathered from other passages of the poem, where we find the soldiers of Muircheartach employing them as tents against the inclemency of the weather: and when we consider that the expedition was undertaken in the depth of winter, it will be seen that something of the sort was absolutely necessary, for an army, who were manifestly to expect no accommodation in a hostile country, except what they could provide for themselves in the open air. It is only necessary to refer the reader to lines 64–70, and 119–122, to convince him that this was the true use of these leathern coverings; and this is the only “improvement in the art of war” to which Muircheartach can fairly lay claim.

It

\* *Dissertations on the History of Ireland*, Dublin, 1766, p. 248.

It cannot, however, be passed over without notice, that Mr. Moore, in his History of Ireland, (vol. ii. pp. 79, 80,) following the authority of Dr. O'Conor, has adopted a different version for this cognomen of Prince Muircheartach. He tells us, that in the brief record of his death in the Annals of Ulster and of the Four Masters, he is described as "a warrior of the saffron hue," and the "hero of western Europe." This is, no doubt, a much more poetical name for a noble warrior than "Muircheartach of the leather cloaks." But a *prince* of the race of Eohgan was never of a saffron hue; and it is to be regretted that Moore should have so far obeyed his poetical instincts, as to have followed Dr. O'Conor in perpetuating so silly a mistake. In this instance Dr. O'Conor's error is too palpable to be questioned; and that his authority is of no great weight, especially when in opposition to all the older Irish scholars, who are unanimous in adopting the other version, must be evident from the fact, that although the same Irish words, *Muircheartach na g-coäll g-croicíonn*, occur both in the Annals of Ulster and in the Annals of the Four Masters, yet he has translated them in each case differently. In the Annals of Ulster his version is, "Murcertach, cognominatus bellatorum coloris crocei,"<sup>1</sup> i. e. "of the warriors of the saffron hue." But in the Annals of the Four Masters he makes a step nearer to the truth, and renders them, "Murcertachus cognominatus *clamydum* croco tinctorum,"<sup>2</sup> i. e. "Muircheartach of the *cloaks* dyed in saffron." This at least concedes that the word *coäll* signifies a cloak, which indeed is undeniable, for the word is still in use in Irish, and is cognate with the Latin word *cucullus*.<sup>3</sup> It is easy also to see that the idea of *saffron* originated in the learned translator's having confounded the word *croicíonn* (which even the common dictionaries would have told him means *a skin, a hide*) with *croc*, saffron, a word cognate with the Latin *crocus*, and which could not possibly, by any grammatical derivative or inflexion, produce the form *croicíonn*. Dr. O'Conor's version of the word *coäll*, in the Annals of Ulster, is evidently a mere fancy, but it seems almost impossible to account for the process by which he forced such a signification from a word so well understood, and so often explained, unless we suppose that he took it to be a modification of the word *cogaib*, war.

We

<sup>1</sup> Rer. Hibern. Scriptores, vol. iv. p. 266.

◦ O'Brien's Dictionary *in voce*. The word

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. vol. iii. p. 467.

is still used in the present Irish, in every part

<sup>3</sup> Vide Cormac's Glossary *in voce* *coäll*.

of Ireland where that language is spoken.

We have seen that the authority of the venerable Charles O'Conor, of Belanagare, (a far more profound Irish scholar than his grandson, the laborious and learned, but unfortunately too careless, Editor of the *Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores*), is entirely in favour of the version which we have adopted, and that he does not seem to have ever thought that *na g-coall g-croicíonn* could mean saffron-tinted cloaks, or saffron-hued warriors. We may add also the authority of Connell Mageoghegan, who translated the Annals of Clonmacnoise,<sup>p</sup> in the year 1627. In his work the death of Muircheartach is recorded in the following words, at the year 936:—

“Mortough Mac Neale upon Shrovetide Sonday, at Ath Firdia, was killed in battle by the Danes of Dublyn. This Mortough was son of King Neale Glunduffe, King of Ireland, and was surnamed Moriertagh na Geoghall Groickeann, which is as much as to say in English Murtough of the Leather Coates; which name was given him upon this occasion”:

He then gives a fabulous account of the origin of this cognomen, of which the substance is this:—Gormlaith, the Queen of King Niall Glundubh, father of Muircheartach, after the death of that monarch, who was killed in a battle with the Danes, married the King of Leinster, and having received from her new husband a gross insult, she called upon Muircheartach to revenge the indignity. Muircheartach obeyed the call of his stepmother, and disguising his followers in cow-hides, spread them over the grounds of the King of Leinster, who, supposing them to be a number of straying cows that had settled in his meadows, ventured unattended into the midst of them, and was slain.

This, however, is evidently a legend, most probably inserted by the translator, and can have no pretensions to be regarded as the historical account of the origin of the name “*na g-Cochall g-Croicíonn*,” by which Muircheartach is distinguished. It is nevertheless sufficient to shew that in Mageoghegan's time not only was there no doubt as to the meaning of the Irish words, but that the still more ancient fable which he quotes employs this cognomen, not

as

<sup>p</sup> A copy of this translation is preserved in the MS. Library of Trinity College, Dublin, (Class F. 3, 19); another in the Library of the Marquis of Drogheda; a third in the collection of Messrs. Hodges and Smith, College-green, Dublin; and a fourth in the British Museum.

as referring to saffron-tinted cloaks, or crocus-coloured warriors, but to unpoetical coverings of simple cow-hides.<sup>4</sup>

Cormacan's poem, however, written in Muircheartach's life-time, and now for the first time published, puts the matter beyond all question; it establishes not only the real meaning of the words, but also explains the reason why the appellation of "leather cloaks" was given to the King of Aileach. The name most probably derived its popularity from this very poem, and was evidently taken from his having provided his soldiers with leather cloaks, a precaution to which the success of the important expedition described in the poem, was in all likelihood to be attributed.

With regard to the translation generally, it is strictly and rigidly literal; and the reader must not be surprised if he finds it entirely free from the bombast and romantic loftiness of Mac Pherson's Ossian. It would have been perhaps much easier to have given a free translation that would sound better, or at least more imposing, to modern ears; but as the object of the Irish Archæological Society is, not to invest the documents which it undertakes to publish with any attraction or advantage which they do not possess, but rather to give them exactly as they exist, the translator has laboured to be as literal as was consistent with being intelligible.

For information with respect to the metre of the original, and the laws of Irish poetry, the translator would refer the inquiring reader to O'Malley's Irish Prosody, or to Mr. Haliday's Gaelic Grammar, Part IV., where a very convenient summary of the rules of Irish Prosody will be found. It may be useful, however, to mention here, that in Irish rhyme the correspondence in the termination

<sup>4</sup> In translating this cognomen in the Annals of the Four Masters Dr. O'Conor probably was misled by his recollection of the *linen shirts dyed in saffron*, in which the Gallowglasses of Shane O'Neill appeared in London, in the year 1562. "He appeared in London," says Leland, "attended by a guard of Gallow-glasses, arrayed in the richest habiliments of their country, armed with the battle-ax, their heads bare, their hair flowing on their shoulders, their linen vests dyed with saffron, with

long and open sleeves, and surcharged with their short military harness, a spectacle astonishing to the people, who imagined that they beheld the inhabitants of some distant quarter of the globe."—*Leland's Hist. of Ireland*, (from *Camden*), vol. ii. p. 229.

It will be clear, however, from the poem, that the *cochull croicionn* were not *linen shirts*, though it is very probable that Muircheartach's soldiers wore similar saffron-tinted shirts of linen under their leather cloaks.

termination of verses is often apparently in the vowels only; thus, in the first two stanzas of the following poem, there is rhyme between the words *náip* and *páil*, *uam* and *puam*, *uile* and *buile*. But the Irish scholar will perceive that a certain classification of consonants is also necessary, without which the correspondence would be imperfect.

The following are the principal requisites in this kind of verse. 1. That every line shall contain seven syllables. 2. That every stanza or quatrain shall make perfect sense by itself without any dependence on the following or preceding one. 3. That in every line two principal words, either a noun or verb, must begin with a vowel or with the same consonant; as in the first line *Neill* and *náip* both begin with *n*. 4. That there must be a kind of vowel rhyme, and a certain correspondence of consonants of the same class, at the end of each line, as before observed. 5. That no word shall occur twice in the same line except in a different sense, or unless it be a particle like the English *of, in, the, to, our, his, &c.*, which latter words are never considered sufficient to form alliteration.

In printing the original Irish of the poem, care has been taken to preserve exactly the spelling of the MS. although it was not thought necessary to retain the contractions, which could not have been represented in print without entailing upon the Society the expense of getting type cast expressly for the purpose. The spelling, however, has been most scrupulously adhered to, to show the rules of orthography which were followed in the middle of the seventeenth century by Irish scholars of the first eminence. To an English reader, these rules will no doubt appear very arbitrary and irregular, for the same word will be found in different spellings; but the Irish scholar will have no difficulty in discerning the law which governs these seeming irregularities; he will find the vowels and consonants, which can be legitimately substituted for each other, most strictly used throughout.

In the grammatical eclipses, &c. it has not been deemed necessary or expedient to adhere to the peculiarities of the MS.; for, in the first place, these peculiarities often vary in the two copies from which the text has been taken, although both are autographs of the same scribe; and, therefore, it is evident that they were dictated only by carelessness or caprice. In the second place, many of them are perhaps, strictly speaking, violations of the rigid rules of grammar; and, therefore, the Editor has in every instance prefixed the proper eclipsing consonant, separating it with a hyphen from the radical consonant,  
instead

instead of doubling the initial consonant as in the MS. This, which may seem an innovation, has not been adopted without warrant and authority: it has been recommended and practised by the most enlightened scholars of the last century. The learned Donlevy, for example, after laying down a system for printing Irish, in the treatise on Irish grammar attached to his Catechism, adds:—" And although these distinctions between *servile* and *root letters*, &c., are so many innovations in *Irish* writing, yet they are such as, surely, no judicious Irish scholar will find fault with, since they plainly tend and serve to promote the *end* of all writings,""—[scil. perspicuity].

The same innovation has been recommended by Richard Mac Elligot of Limerick, in his Observations on the Gaelic Language, published in the Transactions of the Gaelic Society, Dublin, 1808; and he adds the following suggestions:

" When a letter is cut off, its place should be supplied by a comma, as *m' aēap*, *my father*; where the pronoun *mo*, mine, loses the *o*; but if the comma be omitted, and the words written *maēap*, according to the slovenly practice of modern" [and he might have added ancient] "writers, a scholar" [learner] "would be at a loss whether to translate it *my father*, or, *a mother*: after any adventitious letter we should use an hyphen, as *a h-anam*, her soul; *an t-ap̄col*, the apostle, as the French write *y a-t-il*, where the *t* is inserted for euphony sake. If it be omitted in *an n-aēap*, *our father*, and written *an naēap*, a learner will translate it *our serpent*. So *an n-o*, *our sheep*, *an n-of*, *our ship*; *an n-aipc*, *our disgrace*, *an naipc*, *our chains*; *a n-aic*, *in the place*, or *their place*; *an aic*, *the place*, &c. &c."\*

If, however, the MS. were an ancient one, or even four centuries old, the Editor would not have felt himself at liberty to deviate from it in the slightest degree, either in the system of eclipsing, aspiration, or in any other particular. For a great difference took place in the care and exactness with which MSS. were written, even by the most eminent scribes, after the invention of printing had given a less permanent character to what was only in manuscript. The reader, however, is not to understand that the Editor has, properly speaking, changed any one letter in the text of this poem; the amount of what he has done being to introduce hyphens and other grammatical marks, for the purpose of

\* Catechism or Christian Doctrine, &c. p. 510. Paris, 1742.

\* Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Dublin, vol. i. p. 31.

of pointing out to the learner more distinctly the roots of the words; and there can be but little doubt that O'Clery himself, if he had been called upon to prepare his own MS. for the Press, would have adopted some similar system. This is evident from the fact that O'Molloy and Colgan, who published some Irish poems and other documents, at the very same period in which O'Clery transcribed this MS., found themselves under the necessity of employing marks of the kind alluded to, when they proceeded to print in Irish.

It is not necessary to detain the reader by any further prefatory observations. The following legend, however, must be here given, as it has been inserted in the *Leabhar Gabhala*, as a sort of introduction to the poem, and is the only statement connected with the history of Muircheartach there to be found, which the O'Clerys have not transcribed almost verbatim into their Annals. The account of the manner of testing the courage of the warriors selected for the expedition is evidently legendary, having been taken probably from some ancient romance, and is not to be received as of any historical value. This was, no doubt, the reason which induced the O'Clerys to omit it in their Annals, as deeming it purely fabulous. But as all the historical passages relating to the hero of the poem have been collected in this introduction, the Editor has thought it right to add also, in the original, and with a translation, this little legend, in order that the reader may be put in possession of every passage bearing upon the history, fabulous as well as authentic, of the event to which the poem refers:—

“Ail na n-Desirí do chóir la Ceallachan, pi Chaírlí, agur lá riopu Múinín, rois aig i náisiúne do Muircheartach mac Neill, co-o-torcratár da mhile tsib leis. Muircheartach, iarom, do éionól Conaill agur Eoghan agur an euaírgaire an cheana eo h-Oileach, con do poeága deac céit lair do ghléire gairgeatach ino focta. Óa h-amhlao ro rogh romh iasúrtae .. bpoitchu baoi: ijr in oara h-earrainn do'n pupall our fuairgairb for an b-fairche, agur feap co n-gae leacán ijr ino earrainn apanill. No

“The Desies were slaughtered by Callaghan, King of Cashel, and by the men of Munster, for their having submitted to Muircheartach, the son of Niall; on which occasion two thousand of them were slain. After [*hearing*] this, Muircheartach assembled the races of Conall and Eoghan, and the inhabitants of all the north, at Aileach, so that he selected ten hundred of the chosen champions of the north. This was the manner in which he selected them. He erected a tent on the green, and placed a furious hound at one jamb of the door

gloimis aon bhoischu ar ino earrainn  
fhir in ti no teigearó tairri, agur no  
gónaibh an feap do'n gá canoilíse é ar  
ino earrainn ele. Muad via m-bisúndach  
ar an feap riath an deidé rin, ni bheasadh  
rom iir in pluangeas é. Muna pcamocas  
imorro, no togéas for leis é. Ni fhié,  
tra, ann rin ná jo ghaib uamán, agur  
imeagla fir in pionas rin cen mo  
thar aoin mille armach námá.

door, and a man with a broad spear at the other jamb ; the hound flew from the jamb at the person who passed into *the tent*, and the man with the spear wounded him from the other jamb. If the man *to be chosen* shrank from these two attacks, he was not to go on the expedition, but if he did not, he was chosen and placed aside *among the elect*. There were found among the entire number assembled but one thousand armed men who did not take fright and dread at this trial of *courage*.

“Luió iarum láim ólí fhi fairrge, agur co h-Uilea céitir, agur no feap  
tri h-oioche occo, agur do riat Loing-  
reach ar ri i n-giallntur lair. Luió ar-  
raioe co h-Alt cliat co o-tucc cána  
o n-a Dállanb, agur do o-tucc Sitriucc,  
Ri Gall i n-aitear. Luió co Laijmu,  
agur do ucc Lorcán ri Laijean. Luió  
arraioe co fioru Múman co o-tuc  
Ceallachán, ri Caipil, i n-giallntur lair.  
Luió iarom co Connachte, agur tuc  
Concobhar mac Tadhg, ri Connachte  
leir, agur luit co h-Oileacá. Ar bearn-  
rat Cenel n-Eogain, Uí Néill an deir-  
ceire o' ionnraigí, agur an ri Donnchadh  
uair ba h-eiríoe ba pi Teamhrach.  
Nádó, ar Muircheartach, ní oleagam é,  
aict o'á ñeón. Óeran a n-geillri, ar  
Muircheartach, co Teamhrach do Donn-  
chadh. Do uetha, iar rin, a n-geill  
athair do Donnchadh.

“With these he set out on his expe-  
dition, keeping his left hand to the sea ;  
he proceeded first to Ulidia, where he  
remained three nights, and took their  
King Loingseach with him as a host-  
age. He proceeded from thence to Dub-  
lin, where he raised tributes from the  
Danes, and carried off Sitric, King of the  
Danes, as a hostage. He went next to  
Leinster, and carried away Lorcán, King  
of that Province. He went thence to the  
Momonians, and carried away Callaghan,  
King of Cashel, in captivity. He after-  
wards proceeded to Connaught and car-  
ried away Concobhar, the son of Tadhg,  
King of Connaught, and then returned to  
Aileach. The Kinel-Owen [race of Eogh-  
an] then advised him to attack the south-  
ern Hy-Niall, and *to dethrone* Donnchadh,  
who was then King of Tara. No, said  
Muircheartach, it behoves us not to do so  
unless by his own consent, and let our  
hostages, said he, be conveyed to Donn-  
chadh, to Tara. After this the hostages  
were given to Donnchadh for a while.

“Corbmacan

“Do ræt Corbmacan éiscearf, baoi  
fórr an eurúr ron, fnaistíu coimngnú  
fórr an ræel, via no chan an aircéitíal  
ro.”

“Corbmacan Eigeas, who was on this  
expedition, has spun out the thread of  
this story, on which he sung the following  
poem.”—*Leabhar Gabhala*, p. 212.

The translator is indebted to the Rev. Dr. Todd, of Trinity College, Dublin, not only for his kindness in giving him access to the MSS. preserved in the University Library, but also for many suggestions as to the mode of publishing and illustrating this poem; he is also indebted to Mr. Petrie, the most skilful and accomplished antiquarian that Ireland has yet produced, for several judicious remarks, and also to Mr. Eugene Curry, for many examples from ancient MSS. tending to prove the meanings of obsolete words occurring in the original.

J. O'D.

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CORMACAN

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CORMACAN ECCE  
MAC MAOIURIGHDE,  
CC.

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CORMACAN



CORMACAN ECCES MAC MAOIUBRIGHDE  
AN T-AIRDFHILÉ, CC.

Ait bat, Aoifí Cúirt, D.CCCC. XLVI.



Mhuircheartaig, mic Neill naip,  
po gábaip gallu Inniu Íail,  
dubh pataip uile ino Ailiuch,  
i ngráenan gall gaoitheach.

Oeich g-ced laoc do cónaip uain  
do Chenel Eógan airmhruaid  
mórteimcell Eipeann uile,  
a Mhuircheartaig mongbuiðe !

5

Uair

The initial letter A is an exact fac-simile of an ornamented letter in the Book of Kells, a splendid MS. of the four Gospels, supposed to be of the sixth century, in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. The ornament at the top of this page is also copied from the same MS. The Society is indebted to Dr. Aquilla Smith

for the very accurate drawings from which these wood cuts were engraved.

1. *Muircheartach*.—Muircheartaig, is generally anglicised *Murtogh*, and sometimes *Moriertagh*, and even *Mortimer*; and in this form the word is used as a Christian name. As a surname we find it spelled *Moriarty* in many parts of Ireland



CORMACAN THE POET, SON OF MAOLBRIGID,  
THE CHIEF BARD, CECINIT.

HE DIED, ANNO DOM. D.CCCC.XLVI

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Muircheartach, son of valiant Niall!  
Thou hast taken the hostages of Inis Fail;  
Thou hast brought them all into Aileach,  
Into the stone built Grianan [Palace] of steeds,  
Thou didst go forth from us *with* a thousand heroes 5  
Of the race of Eoghan of red weapons,  
*To make* the great circuit of all Erin,  
O Muircheartach of the yellow hair!

Whereas

at the present day. The celebrated Muircheartach Mac Loughlin, King of Aileach in the twelfth century, who was of the same family with the hero of this poem, latinised his name into *Mauritius*, in the charter granted by him to the Abbey of Newry, about the year 1160. See this charter printed from the original in the British Museum,

IRISH ARCH. SOC. I.

in Dr. O'Conor's *Rerum Hibernicarum Scriptores*, vol. i. *Proleg.* part ii. p. 158.

Charles O'Conor of Belanagare, and after him Mr. Moore, in his History of Ireland, have called our hero Murkertagh, which represents with sufficient closeness the Irish pronunciation of the name.

Of this Muircheartach, the son of King

E

Uair naċ beo Cuculainn carn,  
 caomholtan coiġ Chonċobair,  
 ar oxtata maiji a jsejt,  
 a tħic meiċ Qeħxa Phinnejt!

Diamas

Niall Glundubh, the present Earl O'Neill is the senior representative. A genealogical table of his descendants will be found in Note A, at the end of this tract.

*Ibid. Niall.*—Surnamed *Glundubh*, or Niall of the black knee, (see O'Flaherty, *Ogygia*, p. 434), the father of our hero, was one of the most celebrated of the kings of Ireland from the many successful battles fought by him against the Danes; hence he is here distinguished by the epithet *naċ*, the genitive form of *nāp*, good, valiant, noble. O'Clery's Glossary explains the word by *marċ*, good. Niall was killed by the Danes, near Dublin, the 17th of the Kalends of October, A.D. 919, after a reign of three years.—(Four Masters, ad ann. 917, [919], and O'Flaherty, *ubi sup.*)

*2. Thou hast taken*, po ḡabaiṛ, (now written *oo* ḡabaiṛ), the past tense of *ġabaiム*, *I take*; the particles *po*, *poṛ*, *ooṛ*, *ooṭ*, and *ooṛ*, are frequently prefixed to the past tense of verbs in ancient Irish, instead of the modern *oo*.

*Ibid. Inis Fail.*—One of the ancient names of Ireland, from the celebrated stone called *Lia Fail*, brought by the Tuatha de Dannans into Ireland, and preserved at Tara; upon which the ancient kings of Ireland were crowned.—See Colgan, *Trias Thaum.* p. 10, n. 45.

*3. Thou hast brought.*—*Qar pataiṛ*, would now be written *oo paoaiṛ*, but this verb, although used by the Irish poets of the last century, is now obsolete, and *ēugaiṛ* would now be spoken in its stead.

*Ibid. Aileach.*—The royal palace of the Irish chiefs or kings of Ulster of the northern *Hy-Niall* race; situated on a lofty hill in Inishowen, in the County Donegal, about six miles N. W. of Londonderry. The name is spelt variously, *Ailiuch*, *Oileach*, but more commonly *Aileach*, and, from its pronunciation by English organs, *Ely*. The full account of this ancient fortress which has been given in the Ordnance Survey of Londonderry, (vol. i. p. 217, *seq.*), precludes the necessity of entering more largely here into the history of *Aileach* or into the etymology of the name.

*4. Grianan.*—Now spelt and pronounced *Greenan*, a royal palace: there were several *Greenans* in Ireland; and the ruins of this are still popularly called “the fort of Greenan,” and “Greenan-Ely.” See *Ordnance Survey, ubi sup.* p. 217, 221, *seq.*, where the etymology of the word is discussed.

*Ibid. The stone-built Grianan of steeds.*—The words *gall* *għaddeac* are very difficult. *Gall* may signify a *stone*,

Whereas no longer lives Cuchullin, the comely,  
 The beautiful foster-son of the just Conchobhar;  
 On thee *has descended* the renown of his shield,  
 O son of the son of Aedh Finnliath!

10

If

*a rock; also a foreigner, foreign; also bright, splendid.* ፃpoibéac, of *horses, steeds.* But we may join gall either to ጽnanan or to ጽpoibéac. If we join it to the former, it will be either, *the palace of the stones, or the palace of the foreigner, or the splendid palace.* If to the latter, *the palace of foreign, or of noble steeds.* The translation adopted is justified by the known fact that Aileach was built of stone, and not, like many other ancient Irish fortresses, a mere enclosure of earth. But it might be called *the palace of the foreigner* from the fact that it was built by *Frigenn, or Fririn, a foreign mason,* from which circumstance this fort is frequently called *Aileach Fririn.*—See *Ordnance Survey, ubi sup. p. 222, seq.* The phrase “*of steeds*” is a mode of expressing the dignity and importance of the palace of Aileach, although the word was probably added chiefly for the sake of the metre and rhyme; but the Irish frequently employ some epithet taken from horses to express the splendour of their heroes, and the celebrity or strength of their mansions and fortresses.—See line 16 of this poem, where our hero is called “*Muircheartach of the great steeds.*”

5. *Thou didst go forth.*—Do cōdáir, now

ċucōair, the 2nd pers. sing. pret. of the irregular verb ceiōim, *I go.* Uain, *from us,* is now, and more correctly, written uainn.

6. *The race of Eoghan, cenel Ógáin,* generally translated *genus Eogain* by the compiler of the Annals of Ulster. The Eoghan, (Owen or Eugenius), from whom this tribe derived their name, was Eoghan, fourth son of King Niall of the Nine Hostages, who ascended the throne of Ireland, A.D. 375.

8. *Of the yellow hair.*—Mongburé, *yellow-haired.* Many authorities tend to shew that the ancient *Scoti or Milesian Irish* were a light haired race, and that they considered light or yellow hair a mark of beauty.—See line 24 of this poem.

9. *Cuchullin.*—This is the Cuthullin of Mac Pherson, the most celebrated of the heroes of the Red Branch in Ulster; his death is recorded in the Annals of Tighernach, at A.D. 2, where he is called *Fortissimus Heros Scotorum.*—See O’Flaherty, *Ogygia, Part III. cap. xlvi.*

10. *The just Conchobhar.*—Conchobhar Mac Nessa, King of Emania, or Ulster, who began his reign, according to the Annals of Tighernach, in the year before Christ 30.—See O’Flaherty, *Ogygia, Part III. cap. xlvi.*

Diamað beo Fergus mac Roich,  
 vi d-tapt Meadbh fiað iŋ onoir,  
 ni ńiað aŋ cind do clorðim  
 a Muircheartach tóirðroisidig!

15

Diamað beo Curoi na narm,  
 a meic tairc, a Muirriuccan,  
 po bað riarað deit co a tairc,  
 Curoei mac Daire dorngloin.

20

An la do cōthair uain roir,  
 i g-coigearð coem Concobaír,  
 nob ionmba deir ñarí gruað n-ðrinne  
 occ banntracht Oilið foilefinn.

Aðaig

11. *The renown of his shield.*—The poet wishes to say, that on Muircheartach had descended that invincible valour, which covered Cuchullin the bravest of the heroes of the Red Branch.

12. *Aedh Finnliath.*—Muircheartach was the grandson of Aedh, (or Hugh), Finnliath, King of Ireland, whose death is recorded in the Annals of Ulster, at the year 878, and by the Four Masters at the year 876; which dates correspond to the year 879 of the common æra.—O'Flaherty, *Ogygia*, Part III. cap. xciii. p. 434.

13. *If Fergus.*—Diamað would now be written oá m-bað.

*Ibid. Fergus Mac Roich.*—King of Emania, or Ulster, A.M. 3934, according to O'Flaherty (*Ogygia*, Part III. cap. xlvi. p. 274). Being dethroned by his

own subjects he took refuge in Connaught, then governed by Olioll and Queen Meadbh, who received him with honour, and assisted him to wage a war upon Ulster, which was carried on for seven years.—See the celebrated Irish historical tale, called *Tain bo Cuailgne*, of which there are copies in MS. in the Libraries of Trinity College, Dublin, and of the Royal Irish Academy.

14. *Respect.*—Fiað signifies *respect*, *welcome*, and also *land*; but it is more probably used in the former sense here.

15. *Thy superior in valour.*—Literally, “he would not be over thy sword,” meaning, “he would not display greater skill or bravery in the use of the sword, than thou.” This form of expression is still in use in Ireland.

17. *Curoi of the oars.*—Curoi Mac

If Fergus Mac Roich were living  
 (To whom Meadbh gave respect and honour),  
 He would not be thy superior in valour,  
 O Muircheartach of the great steeds!

15

If Curoi of the oars were living,  
 (O good son! O mariner!)  
 He would become subject to thee, with his house,  
*Even Curoi Mac Daire of the fair hands.*

20

The day that thou didst set out from us eastwards,  
 Into the fair province of Conchobhar,  
 Many were the tears down beauteous cheeks  
 Among the fair-haired women of Aileach,

We

Daire, King of the Deagads, or *Clanna Deagha*, of Munster, just before the Christian era. He is celebrated in the ancient historical tales and romances for his travels into foreign parts, and is said to have lived in the celebrated Cyclopean fort of *Caher-Conroi*, in the county of Kerry, where he was killed by Cuchullin.

18. *O mariner.*—The word *muimpugán* is not given in any of the Irish dictionaries or glossaries. It is probably formed from *muimpíoe*, *marine*, and may therefore signify a *mariner*; this seems to be confirmed by the epithet “*of the oars*” given to Curoi, to whom the poet makes his hero superior. The meaning of the whole passage is probably this, “If Curoi, so celebrated for his marine exploits, were now living, he would be compelled to submit to thee, who art a greater

*mariner.*” Muircheartach’s recent successful expedition to the Hebrides, made the very year in which he undertook the circuit of Ireland, was a sufficient ground for the poet to give him the epithet of *mariner*.—See Introd. p. 10.

19. *He would become subject, &c.*—Ro bað piapac veit co a torc, would now be written, Ro bað piapac óuit go n-a éig. The preposition *co* may signify here, either *to, unto, as far as*; or *with, together with*.

20. *Of the fair hands.*—This is a mark of personal beauty often introduced by the Irish poets, and generally applied to heroes, as contradistinguished from slaves and working men.—See line 30.

22. *Province of Conchobhar.*—i.e. Ulster, so called from Conchobhar Mac Nessa, already mentioned in note on line 10.

Abhaigh óuin ag Oenach Crob,—  
nig b'oilne beir i Ráthor,—  
ruigromar Loingseach Líne  
do láp Thíre Thairringsíre.

25

Abhaigh óun ag Dun Eachdach,  
'con cuile doib-geal deabhtach,  
ruigromor Rig Ulaó lenn  
moirteimcheall uile Epend.

30

Abhaigh óuin im Muig Rat neð,  
abhaig i n-Clínn Righe neð,  
abhaig ag Caaran Linne,  
rop abhaig óun deð gille.

35

Abhaig

25. *We were a night.*—Cíobairg óuin, or abhaig óun, now written oibéé óúin, *a night by us*, scil. was spent, or passed, i. e. we were a night. This idiom is still used in modern Irish.

Loingseach was the chieftain of that country, whom Muircheartach seized as a hostage, and carried with him.

*Ibid. Oenach cros.*—Or *Aonach cros*, i. e. the Fair of Crosses. A celebrated place in the county of Antrim, much spoken of in Irish history, although its exact situation is not now known.

28. *Land of promise.*—Cír taippeangíre; this name, taken from “the land of promise” in the Old Testament, “a land overflowing with milk and honey,” is frequently applied by the Irish poets, particularly by O’Dugan and O’Heerin, to any beautiful and fertile districts whose praises they were singing. It must not be taken as a proper name belonging to any particular place, but merely as a poetical epithet applicable to any district remarkable for fertility and beauty.

27. *Líné*, otherwise called *Magh Liné*, the Plain of Liné, a beautiful and fertile plain in the barony and county of Antrim, extending from Lough Neagh to near Carrickfergus. Its exact limits are given in the Ulster Inquisitions, 7 Jac. I. It was bounded on the north by the river of Glenwherry, on the west by Shane’s Castle, on the south by the Six-mile Water, and on the east by Magheramorne.

29. *Dun Eachdach.*—Now Dunaghy, a townland and parish on the banks of the famous river Fregabhail (now Ravel) in the barony of Kilconway and county of Antrim.—See the Ordnance Map. The

We were a night at Oenach-cros;—  
 (Not more delightful to be in Paradise),—  
 We brought Loingseach of Linè  
 From the midst of that land of promise.

25

We were a night at Dun-Eachdach,  
 With the white-handed warlike band;  
 We carried the King of Uladh with us  
 In the great circuit *we made* of all Ireland.

30

We were a night at the level Magh Rath;  
 A night at the bright Glinn Righe;  
 A night at Casan Linné;  
 It was a hard night of good light.

35

A

name Dun Eachdach signifies *the fort of Eochaídha*.

to the present town of Moira, in the barony of Lower Iveagh, county of Down.

30. *Band*.—Con cuípe, would now be written *cúig an cuípe*. O'Clery in his Glossary explains the word cuípe by *bunðean*, i. e. *a band*, or *troop*. See also *cečepn*, which is explained in Cormac's Glossary by *cuípe cimroe*.

34. *Glinn Righe*.—This place is often mentioned by Irish writers as forming the western boundary of the country of the Clanna-Rury, after their conquest by the Collas, A.D. 333. The name is given on Norden's map of the country lying between Dundalk and Lough Erne, from which it appears that Glinn-Righe was the vale of the Newry river which divides the counties of Down and Armagh. The remarkable trench or dyke, called the Dane's Cast, described by Dr. Stewart in his History of Armagh, was the ancient boundary between the territories of Oriel and Ulidia, as we learn from an ancient MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Class H. 3. 18. p. 783.

31. *Uladh*.—(*Ulaō*, in Latin, *U�idia*, or *Ultonia*), was originally the name given to the entire province of Ulster; but at the time to which this poem relates, it was applied only to the country possessed by the ancient Ultonians, or Rudricii, which comprised the present counties of Down and Antrim only.—See Colgan's note (31) on cap. xxxi. of Joceline's Life of St. Patrick; *Trias Thaum.* p. 109.

33. *Magh Rath*,—locally believed to mean *Plain of Forts*, although by some authorities explained *Plain of Prosperity*. It is now Moira, a parish giving name

35. *Casan Linné*.—Was the ancient name of the River Lagan, in the county of Down. The church of Linn Duach-

Clóinig acc Ath Gabhla glan,  
i ar na báirach daír óireaghtmag,  
ruairíamor geoib fóir fneasta  
fóir Magh álainn fionn Ealta.

40

Clóinig dun acc Ath Cliath cain;  
nír uo dearf riur na Dallair;—  
no baor bean iúin dun triom  
fóir é Mac Neill a hanom:  
dut raccair co m-beit im suið,  
cian uo biorc olc an aðaið.

45

Tuccad tuilleadh á lón léir  
do Mhuircheartaí do mac Neill,  
do ñaill, do chruitneacáit cain, cóir,  
fóir rié piach pola dearfing oír.

50  
Aifil

ail, now Magheralin, in the N. W. of that county, is described in the *Felire Aenguis*, or *Festilogium* of Aengus Céile Dé, as situated on the banks of the Casan Linné; Colman linne Duachaille, fóir bhrú copan linne i n-Uilean. “Colman of Linn-Duachaill on the banks of Casan-Linne in Ulster.” A.D. 699. Aengus Céile Dé flourished at the beginning of the ninth century, and a copy of his poem, called *Felire*, is preserved in the Leabhar Breac, in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy. There was another place called *Casan Linne*, in the east of ancient Meath, which is mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1045.

37. *Ath Gabhla*.—The ford of Gabhla; the name of a ford on the River Boyne, near Knowth, in the County Meath. See

the Book of Leinster, (in the Library of Trin. Coll.), fol. 45, a., and the Book of Lecan, (in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy), fol. 253, a.

38. *Breagh-Mhagh*.—Otherwise called *Magh Breagh*, and in Latin *Bregia*, signifying “Campus speciosus,” as Colgan has rendered it, (*Trias Thaumaturg.* p. 20, n. 58), is the country between Dublin and Drogheda, extending also to Moybolgue in East Meath, to Sliabh Bregh in the county of Louth, and to some distance beyond Kells.

40. *Magh n-Ealta*.—*Magh n-Ealta*, is the ancient name of the territory lying between Dublin and the Hill of Howth. Clontarf is said to be in Magh n-Ealta by the Irish annalists.

41. *Ath Cliath*.—Or *Baile Atha-Cliath*, is still the Irish name for Dublin in every

A night at the clear Ath Gabhla;  
 On the morrow *we passed* over Breagh-mhagh.  
 We found frost on the snow,  
 On the delightful fair Magh n-Ealta. 40

We were a night at fair Ath-cliath;  
 (It was not pleasing to the Galls, [i. e. the Danes];)—  
 There was a damsel in the strong fortress  
 Whose soul the son of Niall was:  
 She came forth until she was outside *the walls*, 45  
 Although the night was constantly bad.

A plentiful supply from an abundant store was given [by the Danes],  
 To Muircheartach, the son of Niall,  
 Of bacon, of fine good wheat,  
 Together with penalties for bloodshed in red gold. 50

Joints

part of Ireland. It signifies "the ford of hurdles," or "the town of the ford of hurdles." Adamnan, in his Life of St. Columba, calls Dublin *Vadum Cliad*, Lib. ii. c. 4; see also Ussher, *Primordia*, p. 861.

in voce *Gall*. Colgan (*Acta SS.* p. 603, n. 11) says, "Hiberni enim vulgo Anglos, sive Anglo-Saxones *Gaill*, et Anglum *Gall*, vocant; licet vox haec ex suo etymo potius Gallum denotat."

42. *The Galls*.—This word was originally applied to the Gauls, a colony of whom, from the coast of France, settled in Ireland under Labhra Loingseach, A.M., 3682.—(O'Flaherty, *Ogygia*, Part III. c. cxxxix. p. 262). From this it came to signify any foreign invaders, and is hence usually employed to designate the Danes and Norwegians in the Irish Annals. The Irish of the present day apply the term to the English, whom they call *clanna gall* as well as Saxons, (*Sagartanaij*).—See O'Brien, *Irish Dict.*

F

IRISH ARCH. SOC. I.

43. *There was a damsel*.—Nothing has been yet discovered to prove who this lady was.

45. *Out paccaip*,—is an obsolete verb signifying he or she advanced, proceeded, &c. The particle *out* is here a sign of the past tense like the modern *oo*.

49. *Scall*,—is still in use in the spoken Irish to denote bacon or any fat meat.

*Ibid. Cpuineacit*,—*wheat*. This word is also still in use.

50. *Fiach folc*—probably means blood money. It will be recollect that the Danes of Dublin had slain the father of

Áiril ocup carfi caim  
ond Rioghain po tairc, po glain,  
ocup tuccað ria clofirin  
þrat vathra cec oen toirig.

Tuccrom linn Sitriucc na réo,  
muom po h-erbað a coiméid;  
ocup ni thaifead aip glar  
na geimeal alonnn amnar.

55

ðamari

Muircheartach in the year 919.

*Ibid.* Óeagð-ðr,—*red gold*, is very frequently, if not always, used in the ancient MSS. for the modern phrase *on buiðe*, i. e. yellow gold.

51. Áiril.—This word, though of frequent occurrence in the ancient Irish MSS., is not given in any of the Irish dictionaries, but its meaning is undoubtedly a joint of meat. The word is used in the life of St. Bridgit preserved in the *Leabhar Breac*, fol. 31 b., and the passage in which it is used is translated by Colgan, *Trias Thaum.* p. 528, Co euc aírill iñ in coipe do, i. e. “Cui dispositum carnem coquere.” It is also used in the *Book of Lecan*, fol. 307, a, a, and in Cormac’s Glossary under the word Óeach, where its meaning cannot be mistaken: Se h-aiple fil ó cmo in meoip co h-alc na gualano, i. e. “There are six joints (aiple) from the extremity of the fingers to the joint of the shoulder.”

*Ibid.* Cárfe,—is still the word to denote cheese. In Cormac’s Glossary it is derived from the Latin *caseus*.

53. Ria clofirin.—The meaning of this phrase is not evident; the word clofirin is not in any Irish dictionary, but we may

conjecture it to be a modification of clof, which is explained in old glossaries as *fame, renown, &c.* The translation adopted expresses the probable meaning.

54. Þrat vœa,—“a garment of colour,” i.e. a coloured garment. This passage shows that Dublin was then a place of some trade.

55. Sitric the wealthy,—literally “Sitric of the jewels.” The word réo is still in use in the spoken Irish in the sense of jewel or any precious article, but in ancient MSS. it is often applied to wealth in the same sense as the Latin word *gaza*. It is not easy now to determine with certainty what Sitric is here alluded to. In the *Leabhar Gabhala* he is styled *King of the Danes of Dublin*; but it is not directly mentioned in the poem that he was the *King of Dublin*, and it certainly is not true, that the principal governor of the Danes of Dublin at this period was named Sitric, for we have the testimony of all the more ancient Irish Annals, that Blacar, the warrior by whom Muircheartach was slain in 943, was King of Dublin the year in which this circuit was made. Godfrey, the grandson of Imar, was Chief or King of the Danes of Dublin from the year

Joints of meat, and fine cheese, *were given*  
By the very good, the very beautiful Queen;  
And there was given with liberality  
A coloured mantle for every chieftain.  
We carried off with us Sitric the wealthy;  
To me was assigned *the duty of keeping him*  
And there was not put upon him a manacle,  
Nor polished tight fetter.

55

We

920 to 934, when he was succeeded by his son Amlaff, who ruled as chief till he fled with his people to England from fear of the Irish in the year 937 [939]. In the year 938 [940] Blacar, the son of Godfrey and brother of Amlaff, returned to Dublin, and was the chief governor of the Danes until the year 943 [945] when he was driven from Dublin by his brother Amlaff. The only Sitric mentioned in the ancient annals as King of Dublin, whose period at all approaches the time of Muircheartach's circuit, was Sitric, the grandson of Imar; but the death of this prince is recorded in the *Chronicon Scotorum* and the *Annals of Inishfallen* at the year 927, that is fourteen years before the period of which we are treating. And hence it is evident, that the Sitric carried off by Muircheartach on this occasion was not King of Dublin, but some chief of distinction, whom Muircheartach considered a man of sufficient dignity and importance to be taken as a pledge of the Danish king's allegiance; and it seems most probable, that this hostage was Sitric, the brother of the Godfrey who suc-

ceeded as King of Dublin in 948, and the son of Sitric, the king of Dublin, by whom the father of Muircheartach was slain in 919, and who died himself in 927. This Sitric, the son of Sitric, is set down in the table of the succession of the Danish kings of Dublin in Mr. Lindsay's *View of the Coinage of Ireland*, (Cork, 1839), but no dates are added.—See Ware, orig. ed. p. 109, and Harris's *Hist. of Dublin*.

56. Riom po h-epbaó a cónméo.—  
This would be written, according to the modern mode of orthography, **riom** **po** **heapbaó** a cónméo. The verb **eaapbaó**, to command, is now obsolete in the spoken Irish; but O'Clery explains it by the modern words **pupáileann** **no** **oipníogaó**, to command, or order. It is frequently used in the ancient MSS., as in the *Leabhar Breac*, fol. 31, b, "Ro eaapb oo Ó'hriúigic a cónmét, i. e. he ordered St. Bridgit to keep it."

57. **Clasp**,—a lock or fetter, is still in common use. It was translated *catena* by Jocelin in the 12th century.

58. **Amnar**,—i. e. severe, bitter, “amnar s. oorlig,” O’Clery.

Óamair aothairg oec Liamain,  
ná b'uacád boi ari ár n-iarair,  
Lairgin i n-Élind Mama i muiđ  
ocur Uí chaorain Cheinnrealaing.

60

'Dap g-coccur i n-Élind Mama  
do Lairgnib co po ðana,  
nin po lampatup taeđ fírinii,  
o thánaic an la lainfínd.

65

Óbair dun ind Aillinn uair;  
tanaic an rneachta a n-aithriuair;  
rob iat ari o-toigí cen poinn  
ari g-cocháill cappa c'rocóinn.  
Lopcan, mac Ójearail na m-bo

70

tuccrom

*Ibid.* *Geiméal*,—a fetter, is a very ancient word still well understood. Dr. O'Brien (*Irish Dict.*) writes this word *geibheal*, and states, that it corresponds not only with the Hebrew, but also with the Chaldean, Syrian, and Arabic languages in the affinity of sound and letters as well as in the identity of meaning. It is also evidently cognate with the English *gyve*.

59. *Liamhain*,—called also *Dun Liamhna*, was an ancient seat of the kings of Leinster. The place is now called Dunlavan, and is a market and post town in the county of Wicklow, twenty-one miles S. W. from Dublin, and a prebend in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

61. *Gleann Mama*,—is the name of a valley situated near Dunlavan, in the county of Wicklow, and famous in Irish history for a battle fought there in the

year 999, between the Irish and the Danes.

62. *Uí Cennréalaing*,—i. e. *Nepotes Kensealach*, or descendants of Enna Kensealach, who was King of Leinster about the beginning of the fourth century. Their country which bore their tribe name, it being the custom of the Irish to give the name of the people to the territory they possessed, comprised the entire of the county of Wexford, the barony of Shilelah, in the county of Wicklow, and also a portion of the county of Carlow.

63. *Óap g-coccur*,—would be written, according to the modern mode of orthography, *ag ap g-coçur*. The word *coçur* is of frequent occurrence in the Irish Annals in the sense of conspiracy or insurrection.—See O'Brien's Dictionary, *in voce*, where an example of its use is adduced from the Annals of Tighearnach.

We were a night at Liamhain;

There were many in pursuit behind us,  
The Lagenians who assembled at Glen-Mama,  
And the comely race of Kennsealach.

60

A conspiracy was formed against us at Glen-Mama,  
By the Lagenians very boldly,  
*But* they durst not approach us,  
When the bright day came.

65

We were a night at the cold Aillinn;

The snow came from the north-east;  
Our only houses, without distinction of rank,  
Were our strong leather cloaks.

70

Lorcan, descendant of Bresal of the cows,

We

67. *Aillinn*.—This, which was another seat of the kings of Leinster, retains its original name to the present day. Its remains are situated on a hill a short distance to the north of Old Kilcullen, in the county of Kildare, and it is the largest fort in Ireland, with the single exception of Emania, the seat of the ancient kings of Ulster, near Armagh. This *Aillinn* is to be distinguished from the hill of *Almhain*, now anglicised *Allen*, which is better known to the Irish people, through the poems of Ossian, as being the seat of the famous warrior Finn Mac Cumhail, the Fingall of Mac Pherson. The hill of Almhain, now Allen, is five miles to the north of the town of Kildare, and the fort of *Aillinn* is about the same distance to the east of it. Both are accurately shown on the Ordnance Map of the county

of Kildare.

71. *Mac Órcáin*,—must be here considered as an error of transcription for *Ua Órcáin*; for Lorcan, who was King of Leinster about this period, was not the son of Breasal, but of Faolan. It appears, however, by a quotation from an ancient poem given by the Four Masters, that he was usually called *Copcam ua Órcáin*, i. e. Lorcan, descendant of Breasal Bealach, King of Leinster. The first mention we find made of this Lorcan in the Irish Annals is at the year 923, [925] when it is stated (*An. iv. Mag.*) that he was taken prisoner by the Danes of Dublin, together with his father, who was then King of Leinster. His father Faolan lived till the year 940, when it is recorded by the Four Masters that he died of a fall at the fair of Aenach Colmain, which

tuccrom lenn,—ni hionmargo,—  
no hiaðaoð geimisul ðapb gel  
ap ariðrið lionmar Laiðen.

Óðairg i m-bealac Múðnu;  
nið fóilegiom ap n-deaghúpla;  
no bai rneachta dun ap lær,  
i m-bealac glofach Þhabhran.

75

Óðairg dun 'con Flíodair fínd;  
muaratomor biað ocuþ linn,  
don muachtar tuiþc ap d-toighe  
o rioghaistre fel Orruighe.

80

Tuccad luac a b-pailte ðaið,  
d'Orruighe ib iñ comðail;—  
ni ðeachaið feaþ diob da tóig,  
gan aircceð n-alomn n-epprait.

85

Óðairg ðun i Muig Aírb uair,

að

was held on the Curragh of Kildare, in Moyliffe; but he must have resigned the government to his son some time previously, for Lorcan is styled Arch-King of Leinster in this poem. According to the catalogue of the kings of Leinster preserved in the Book of Leinster, a reign of only one year is given to this Lorcan. He was killed, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, in the year 941 [i. e. A.D. 943]:—

“Lorcan, the son of Faelan, King of Leinster, was killed by the Northmen as he was plundering Dublin, after he had previously defeated them in a battle in which many of them were slain.”

It does not appear from the pedigrees in the Book of Leinster that this Lorcan was the founder of any family.

72. *Tuccrom lenn*,—would now be written *cugamap linn*.

75. *Bealach Mughna*,—now Ballaghmoon, in the southern extremity of the county of Kildare, and two miles to the north of the town of Carlow, not Ballymoon, in the county of Carlow, as Dr. Lanigan asserts in his Ecclesiastical History of Ireland, vol. iii. pp. 351, 352. It is celebrated in Irish history for a battle fought there in the year 908, between Flann Sinna, Monarch of Ireland, and Cormac Mac Cuillionan, King of Munster and

We carried off with us ;—*I speak* no falsehood,—  
 A rough bright fetter was fastened  
 Upon that Arch-king of populous Leinster.

A night *we passed* at Bealach Mughna;  
 We did not wet our fine hair;  
 The snow was on the ground before us  
 In the noisy Bealach Gabhran.

We were a night at the clear Fliodais;  
 We received food and ale,  
*And* hogs were sent to our camp,  
 By the hospitable chiefs of Ossory.

The reward of their hospitality was given to them,  
 To the men of Ossory in the Assembly;—  
 Not a man of them returned to his house  
 Without a beautiful present of dress.

We were a night at the cold Magh Airbh,

75

80

85

At

Archbishop of Cashel, in which the latter  
 was defeated and slain.

78. *Bealach Gabhrain*.—i. e. the road  
 or pass of *Gabhran*, now Gowran, in the  
 east of the county of Kilkenny. The  
 meaning of the epithet *gloinac*, *noisy*,  
 applied to this road, is not very clear,  
 unless it alludes to the shouts or clamours  
 of the inhabitants.

79. *Fliodais*,—seems to have been the  
 name of a river in Ossory, but that name  
 is now forgotten.

82. Muircheartach received this attention  
 from the people of Ossory because he  
 was married to Dubhdara, the daughter of  
 the chief of that territory.

83. *Fáilte*,—literally signifies welcome, and figuratively *hospitality*.

86. *Cappat*,—signifies generally a battle dress, though it is sometimes used to signify any dress. Eng. *array*.—See O'Brien's Dictionary, *in voce*.

87. *Magh Airbh*,—was the name of a celebrated plain in Ossory, nearly co-extensive with the present barony of Crannagh, in the N. W. of the county of Kilkenny. In this territory was *Grian Airbh* (now Greane in this barony) which is mentioned in the *Annals of Clonenagh*, quoted by Keating, as being on the common boundary of the dioceses of Cashel and Ossory.

αγ τιοβρατταιδ θριοταιν θυαιν;  
αθαιδ αγ Κλαρ θοιρε πόιη,  
ρο μιαραμορ αρ η-ονοιη.

90

Ταιργεταρ κοινομεαδ ιρ ειαιρε,  
co ροιράοιλισ co ριορήμαιρε,  
θειρι, φιρ Μυμαν μαρθε;  
don μιαχτυη α η-θεαζθλιτε.

Οδαιδ θυν i πυιδ Φειμιν,  
co θεαρβ ουρ co θειμιν,  
αθαιδ hi Καιρυλ Μυμαν;  
ann ρο μαοιτε αν μοη ρύθηρ.

95

Τυαρρεαβετα τηι cath ρροδα,  
θιανα, θεαρικα, θιμοια,

100

co

88. *Tiobradaibh Britain*,—“the wells or springs of Britan,” now Tubbridbritain, in the barony of Crannagh and county of Kilkenny, and adjoining the parish of Kilcooley, in the county of Tipperary. It is clear from the relative situations of those places that Muircheartach did not proceed directly to Cashel, but that he moved in different directions to receive the submissions of different chieftains.

89. *Clar Doire Mor*,—i. e. the plain of *Doire Mor*. This place is frequently mentioned in Irish history as situated in the territory of Ely, not far from Roscrea. Its exact situation is thus pointed out in the life of St. Mochoemhog or Pulcherius: (c. xvi.) “Ipse enim [Colmanus] erat in suo monasterio quod Scoticé dicitur *Doire mor*, id est *Nemus magnum*; et est po-

situm in confinio Mumuniensium et Lageniensium; sed tamen positum est in regione Mumuniensium in regione scilicet *Eile*.” (*Colgan. Acta SS. ad xi. Mart.* p. 591). The place has since been called Kilcolman, from a church erected there by the St. Colman mentioned in this passage, and is situated in the Barony of Ballybritt, in the King’s County, formerly a part of the territory of Ely O’Carroll which belonged to Munster.

91. *Coimoneao*.—This word, which signifies a feast or refection, is generally anglicised *coigny* by English writers on Irish affairs. Spenser in his State of Ireland, (Dublin Ed. pp. 52, 53), speaking of the customus of *Coigny* and Livery has the following remarks:—“It is apparent that by the word livery is there meant

At the wells of the long-lived Britan;  
 A night at the plain of Doire-mor,  
 Where we received our *due* honour.

90

Coigny and tribute were offered,  
 With cheerfulness and with willingness,  
*By the Desies and the good men of Munster;*  
 Their upright chieftains waited on us.

We were a night in Magh Feimin, 95

Assuredly and certainly,  
 A night at Cashel of Munster;  
 There the great injury was inflicted *on the men of Munster.*

There were arrayed *against us* three battalions brave,  
 Impetuous, red, tremendous,

100  
So

horse meate, like as by the word *coigny* is understood man's meate; but whence the word is derived is hard to tell; some say of *coine*, for that they used commonly in their *coignies* not only to take meate but *coine* also; but I think rather this word *coigny* is derived of the Irish. The which is a common use amongst landlords of the Irish to have a common spending upon their tenants, being commonly but tenants at will, they use to take of them what victuals they list: for of victuals they were wont to make but small reckoning." — See also Harris's Ware, vol. ii. *Antiq.* p. 77.

95. *Magh Feimin*.—A beautiful and fertile plain in the S. E. of the present county of Tipperary, extending from the River Suir northwards to the fort of Knockgraffon, and from *Cathair Duin*

*Iascaigh*, now the town of Cahir, to the verge of the present county of Kilkenny. The boundary between it and the territory of Eoghanacht Chaisil extended across the mountain of *Sliabh na m-ban bh-fionn*, now Slievenaman. This was a part of the country of the Desies.

98. *Cinn po maore an mop púðar*.—“There the great injury was inflicted,” that is, even though the men of Munster did not fight us, they nevertheless sustained a great injury in being obliged to give up their prince, who considered himself a greater man than Muircheartach, as being King of all the south of Ireland, and Muircheartach's mortal enemy.

99. *Tuapccabca*.—This verb is now entirely obsolete, but it is explained by O'Clery from more ancient glossaries, as signifying, *to raise*, “*tuapgaib* i. *do tógaib*.”

105

co n-acá cach a-poile,  
ar cearptlár an tóir moighe.

Ro laíream ar g-cochla dinn,  
mar no ladh muintiuip deirgrié;  
no baoi Muircheartaí glan, gle,  
oc imbírt a fioccille.

At rúbairt Ceallachan cruaid,—  
osur ro bád dún a bhuaid,—  
a fióra Muirian co m-bláid,  
na earruicció clann Eoghoin.

Árra meirí do dul leo,  
indar ar g-corí uile i ngleo;  
muirbhíte duine ceac fir,  
muinsep miaidé Muircheartaig.

Tuccrom linn Ceallaçán coir,  
fo uarraptaí a onoir,

110

115

fail

101. Co n-acá cach a-poile.—Would be expressed in the modern language, “Do b-faca cár a céile.”

102. *In the centre of the great plain.*—That is the great plain of Cashel then called *Corca Eathrach*, and now popularly the Golden Vale.

103. Ro laíream ar g-cochla dinn.—Would be expressed ‘Do círeamair ar g-cochla dinn’ in the modern Irish. The verb *láocim*, which is of constant occurrence in the ancient MSS. is now obsolete, but O’Clery explains it by the modern verb *cuirim*, *I put*, “lá .i. cup; láim .i. curio.”

106. Fioccáil.—Certainly signifies a

chess-board. It is described in Cormac’s Glossary as a quadrangular board with black and white spots. For the meaning of this word the reader is also referred to O’Flaherty’s *Ogygia*, p. 311.

109. Co m-bláid.—i. e. with fame or renown. The word *bláid*, which is sometimes written *bláit*, occurs frequently in the last syllables of Irish verses, and signifies fame or renown: “Vox blath correptè pronunciata idem sonat quod decus vel fama.”—Colgan, *Acta SS.* p. 129, n. 3.

111. Árra.—Is now generally written *ura*; it is the comparative form of the adjective *urair* or *fúrur*, easy. The form *árra* is obviously cognate with the Eng-

So that each party confronted the other,  
In the centre of the great plain.

We cast our cloaks off us,  
As became the subjects of a good king;  
The comely, the bright Muircheartach was *at this time* 105  
*Engaged* in playing his chess.

The hardy Callaghan said,—  
(And to us it was victory),—  
“ O men of Munster ! *men* of renown !  
Oppose not the race of Eoghan.

110

Better that I go with them, *as a hostage*,  
Than that we should all be driven to battle;  
They will kill man for man,  
The noble people of Muircheartach.”

We took with us *therefore* Callaghan the just, 115  
Who received his *due* honour,

*Namely,*

lish *easy*, though no English or Saxon form of that word bears any resemblance to the positive form *pupur*.

113. *Múrpict ouine cecá píp.*—This idiom cannot be literally rendered into any English form; the nearest would be “they will slay a man *of each man*,” but as this would be unintelligible, the translator is obliged to adopt the nearest English form of the sentence which can be understood.

115. *Callaghan the just.*—This Callaghan is called the turbulent King of Munster in Mageoghegan’s translation of the Annals of Clonmacnoise. The first mention of him in the Irish Annals is in the *Chronicon Scotorum* at the year 936, when we find him, in conjunction

with a party of the Danes, plundering Clonmacnoise. His death is recorded in the same Chronicle, at the year 954.

He is the ancestor of the families of Mac Carthy and O’Callaghan, of the latter of whom Lord Lismore is the present head. The descent of the present Mac Carthy, of Carricknavar, near Cork, as far as the Editor has been able to ascertain it, may be seen from the genealogical table in note B, at the end of this Tract.

116. *His honour.*—i. e. such honour as was due to him. The expression would seem to be ironical, but it may allude to the ring (of gold perhaps) of fifteen ounces, which may have been put on him as a mark of distinction.

பல் கோங் ந-ங்கை ந-வெக் போ லாம்,  
இஶ ராஜந் மா சோர் சோலான்.

ஓராங் வுன் விலே மால்லே

1 மாகாரை ஓ ஸ்கைர்ப்பே;  
போ பே அப் ஸ்கிள்டாப், போ பே அப் ஸ்கோல்  
அப் ஸ்கோக்கைல் சோப்பா சுபோன்.

120

சோல் அகோன் 1 மோங் 'பா தோங்,  
சோர்டெட் பிர் இன் ஸ்கைர்ப்பெர்னாங்;—  
அன் வாப் லென், ஬ா சோப்பா த்ரோம்  
இச் ரிளாஷ் நா ஸ்கூாத்-ஞாக்ஹால்.

125

ஓராங் 1 ஸ்கீல் ஓ லூ லும்;  
துப்பாம் அகாஷ் ப்பி லெத் குன்;

அநாங்

117. *Fail*.—A ring, this word is still in use.

118. *Io*.—Or யோ, is explained a chain or collar, in all the published Irish Dictionaries, and correctly. With this word all the Irish antiquaries have been made acquainted through the *Io Moran*, i. e. Moran's chain, mentioned by Vallancey in his Collectanea.

120. The plain of Hy-Cairbre was the level country extending from the River Shannon towards Kilmallock, in the present county of Limerick. After the establishment of surnames, the hereditary chiefs of this territory took the surname of O'Donovan, as we learn from O'Heerin's topographical poem, in which this territory is described as comprising the country "along the sluggish River Maigue, [now the barony of Coshma, called in Irish கோர் மாயே, i. e. along the Maigue],

and the plains down to the Shannon." Muircheartach went into this territory to receive the submissions of Cathal, the chief of this territory, who was cotemporary with Callaghan Cashel. From this Cathal, Morgan William O'Donovan, of Montpelier, near Cork, a member of the Irish Archaeological Society, is the twenty-eighth in direct descent.

127. *Cill Dalua*.—i. e. the church of St. Dalua or Luanus, now the town of Killaloe, on the Shannon, in the S. E. of the county of Clare.

128. *Leath Cuinn*.—i. e. "Conn's half," so called from Conn of the hundred battles, who ruled over it in the second century. The southern half of Ireland was called Leath Mogha, i. e. Mogh's half, from Mogh Nuadhat, King of Munster, who, after having defeated Conn, monarch of Ireland, in ten battles, com-

*Namely, a ring of fifteen ounces on his hand,  
And a chain of iron on his stout leg.*

We were a night all together

In the plain of the Hy-Cairbre ;  
Our *only* shelter, our *only* woods  
Were our strong leather cloaks.

120

Music we had on the plain and in our tents,  
Listening to its strains *we danced awhile*  
There methinks a heavy noise was *made,*  
By the shaking of our hard cloaks.

125

A night at the barren Cill-Da-Lua ;  
We *next* turned our faces towards Leath-Cuinn ;

A

peled him to divide Ireland into two equal portions, of which Conn was to have the government of the northern half, and himself that of the southern. See *Annals of Tighearnach*, at the year 166, and O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, Part III. Cap. 60. The boundary which separated those two divisions was called *Eiscir Riada*, and extended from High-street, in Dublin, to Ath Cliath Meadhraighe, now Clarin Bridge, in the county of Galway. This Eiscir, which is a continuous line of gravel hills, is described in our ancient MSS. as extending from Dublin to Clonard, thence to Clonmacnoise and Clonburren, and thence to Meadhraighe, a peninsula extending into the bay of Galway, a few miles to the south of the town. The writer has walked along this ridge, and found it to extend by the hills of Crumlin, and so along by

the Esker at Lucan, then south of the Liffey, near Celbridge, and so across that river near Clane, onwards by Donadea, until it strikes the high road near Clonard, then extending southwards of the conspicuous hill of Croghan, until near Philipstown a line of road takes advantage of its elevation to run between two bogs. It is next to be seen in a very conspicuous ridge two miles to the north of Tullamore, where Conn and Mogh fought the battle of Moylena, and thence it extends in a very well developed line through the barony of Garrycastle until it strikes the Shannon at Clonmacnoise. It can next be seen in a very distinct line at Clonburren, on the west side of the Shannon, and at the town of Ballinasloe, whence it extends in the direction of the Abbey of Kilconnell, thence it wends in the direction of Athenry, and so on to the promon-

130

adairg i Cinn coraidh carra,  
adairg i Luimneach liomglaear.

Aðairg dun ic Ath Caille,  
fór ceapt bhrú na Sionainne;  
nì fuairur, ar d-teict ó m' éisig,  
conair mar an g-Creitíralaig.

Aðairg acc Sleib Suibe an Rioig  
nò lairream din uile ar gníomh;  
nì fuairamur ar ngóraid  
i Muig aloon uar Athchar.

Aðairg dun ic Loch Riach peil,  
do Mhuirceartach, do mac Neill,

135

140

adairg

tory of Rinn Tamhan now Towan Point, in Meadhraighe, or the parish of Ballynacourty, a few miles to the south of the town of Galway.

129. *Ceann Coradh*.—i. e. head of the weir, generally anglicised Kincora, was the name of a hill in the present town of Killaloe, on which the King of Thomond erected a palace. It is well known to the readers of Irish history as the palace of the celebrated Brian Boru, monarch of Ireland. It was demolished, and its materials, both stone and wood, hurled into the Shannon by Turlogh O'Conor, King of Connnaught, in the year 1118. Dutton, in his statistical account of the county of Clare, confounds *Ceann Coradh* with the fort of Beal Borumha, which still remains situated about one mile to the north of the site of the palace of *Ceann Coradh*. But of *Ceann Coradh* palace

itself, which extended from the present Roman Catholic chapel to the brow of the hill over the bridge, not a vestige remains. The name is still retained in Kincora Lodge, the seat of —— O'Brien, Esq.

130. *Luimneach*.—Is still the Irish name for the city of Limerick. It was originally the name of that part of the River Shannon extending from the city of Limerick to its mouth, as is clear from many ancient Irish documents.

131. *Ath-Coille*.—i. e. Woodford. There is no place on the brink of the Shannon, near Limerick, now bearing this name. We cannot assume it to be the *Ath-Coille*, or Woodford, in the south of the county of Galway, as that place is several miles from the River Shannon. It must have been the ancient name of some place near Dunass or O'Brien's Bridge, between Limerick and Killaloe.

A night at the strong Ceann-Coradh;  
 A night at Luimneach of the azure stream.

130

We were a night at Ath-Caille,  
 On the very brink of the Shannon:  
 I did not meet, since I left my home,  
 A pass like unto Cretshalach.

A night at Sliabh-Suidhe-an-riogh,  
 Where we put away all our anxiety;  
 We were unable to warm ourselves  
 On the beautiful cold Magh-Adhair.

135

We were a night at the bright Loch Riach,  
 With Muircheartach the son of Niall;

140

A

134. *Cretshalach*.—Now Cratlagh, a lagh Mountain. well known place in the county of Clare, situated about four miles N. and by W. of the city of Limerick, on the road to Ennis. The ancient road or pass of Cratlagh ran over a steep hill, and it is to be supposed that the poet alludes here to the difficulty with which it could be traversed.

135. This mountain is called *Sliabh Oidhe an Righ*, i. e. "The mountain of the death of the king," by the Four Masters and O'Flaherty, and also by the more ancient writers; and there can be little doubt that *Oidhe* was here changed into *suidhe* by Cormacan merely to form alliteration. See *Ogygia*, p. 385. Its exact situation is pointed out in the Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1561. This name is now remembered by very few, the mountain being popularly called the Crat-

138. *Magh-Adhair*.—Is frequently mentioned by the Irish annalists, and also by the modern writers of Irish history, as a place in Thomond where the Dalcassian princes were inaugurated, but its exact situation has never been pointed out by any of them, though the original name is still locally retained. It is situated in the townland of Toonagh, parish of Cloney, barony of Upper Tulla, and county of Clare, and the mound on which the O'Brien was inaugurated is still to be seen there on the margin of a stream called *Abhainn Ifrinn*. For an account of the inauguration of several princes of the O'Brien family on this mound the reader is referred to Magrath's *Wars of Turlogh* at the years 1242, 1267, 1277, and 1311.

139. *Loch Riach*.—Now Loughrea,

aoisigh i Meáda Seola,  
do Thuiircéartach bith-beóidha.

Fuaformor ic Ath mac Cinn  
rioghráide Chonnacl aer aer g-cinn;  
do rataod aircat i g-óir  
do'n chuirpe builigh bheac-tóir.

Conchobhar, mac Taidhg tarbhá,  
airdri Connacht comchalma,  
tanaic lenn gan g-eimeal gloin,  
i n-Domhan uaine Oiliú.

Aoisigh i Muig Aí uaine;  
aoisigh oile i Raith Dhuaire;  
airbho ino aoisigh, ní chél,  
bamair ic Spáth an fíréan.

145

150

Aoisigh

a market and post town in the barony of Loughrea and county of Galway, and eighteen miles E. by S. of the town of Galway.

141. *Meadha Seola*.—This place is frequently mentioned by our writers, but its exact situation has not been pointed out by any of them. It retains, however, its ancient name to this day, and is a very conspicuous hill situated near Castle-Hackett, in the barony of Clare and county of Galway.—See Annals of the Four Masters at the year 1580, and O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, p. 162.

143. *Ath mac Cing*.—This is the ancient Irish name of the town of Headford, in the barony of Clare and county of

Galway, as appears from a description of O'Flaherty's country preserved in a MS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, where the place is called *Ath Cinn* and *Ath mac Cinn*. It is now called *Ath Cinn* by the old natives when they speak Irish, and Headford is only an attempt at translating it.

146. *Speac*.—i. e. *speckled*. This term seems to allude to their wearing clothes of various colours according to the rank of each.

147. *Conchobhar, the son of Tadhg*.—This Conchobhar or Conor, was not King of Connaught at this period, nor is it stated in the poem that he was, though the Four Masters have taken it for granted. His

A night at Meadha Seola,  
With Muircheartach the ever-vigorous.

We found at Ath-Mac-Cing

The Kings of Connaught awaiting us;

Gold and silver were given

145

To the handsome great band of many coloured garments.

Conchobhar the son of Tadhg, the bull-like,

The arch-king of Connaught, exceeding brave,

Came with us, *as a hostage*, without a bright fetter,

Into the green palace of Aileach.

150

A night on the green Magh-Ai :

Another night at Rath-Guaire ;

Delightful was the night,—I will not conceal it,

*On which* we were at Srath-an-fhiren.

We

father, Tadhg of the Three Towers, King of Connaught, lived up to the year 955, when it is to be supposed his son succeeded. The death of Conchobhar, King of Connaught, is recorded at the year 972 in the Annals of Ulster, but his death is entered under the year 971 in the Annals of the Four Masters. This Conchobhar, or Conor, is the ancestor after whom the O'Conors of Connaught have taken their name, and the present O'Conor Don is the twenty-fifth in direct descent from him, as will appear from the table given in note C. at the end of this tract, which is as curious a specimen of genealogical history as any nation in Europe can boast of.

150. *Magh Ai*,—is the ancient name of a celebrated plain in the county of

Roscommon, which is often also called *Machaire Chonacht*, i. e. the plain of Connaught. It extends from Cloonfree, near Strokestown, to the bridge of Castle-reagh, and from a hill near the town of Roscommon to the Turloughs of Mantua.

151. *Rath Guaire*,—is the present and ancient Irish name of Rathwire, a village in the parish of Killucan; Bar of Farbil and county of Westmeath, about three miles N. N. W. of Kinnegad; but it is not certain that this is the Rath Guaire here referred to. The writer is not aware, however, of the existence of any other place of the name.

153. *Srath-an-fhiren*,—i. e. the strath, or meadow, of the just man. Now unknown.

Óðaig dun ic Suil daimh dein,  
do Mhuiircéartach do Mac Neill;  
ocur ní po t Kataccair oirn,  
aig b-peabur imon g-comloinn.

155

Óðaig dun icc Ath Seanach,  
cen meing ocur cen meabhall;  
ppointd cétt cech ficheat ria pojnn  
o Chenel g-calma g-Conaill.

160

Óðaig óun i m-beapnuig buan,  
ocur nrop' aibind diaf rluag:  
aðaig dún, ria u-tect diaf u-tig,  
occ Licc ingeine Laorid.

165

Óðaig dun i Muig glaf gorim;  
aig na bapach d'ol na g-corn;  
no bai glór, cen bhor, co m-blaoi,  
it toig moir a Mhuiircéartoiig!

170

O Lochan uane na n-each  
no laf giolla co h-Oileach,  
dia raoi pi Dub n-daire n-dail,

mná

155. *Suil Daimh*,—i. e. *the ox's eye*.

Now unknown. The term *suil* when used topographically is applied to a circular whirlpool in a river.

159. *Ath-Seanach*,—i. e. the ford of Seanach, a man's name, now Ballyshannon, a well known town on the river Erne, in the county of Donegal. It is now generally called in Irish *Beal Atha Seanach*, i. e. the mouth of the ford of Seanach, and locally anglicised Ballyshanny, which is far more correct than

## Ballyshannon.

162. *Cinel Conaill*.—These words are generally translated by the compiler of the Annals of Ulster, *Genus Conaill*, i. e. race or progeny of Conall. They are the descendants of Conall Gulban, the son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, monarch of Ireland in the fourth century. The ancient chiefs of this people were the O'Muldorries and O'Canannans, up to the beginning of the thirteenth century, and the O'Donnells from that period till

We were a night at the rapid Suil Daimh,  
 With Muircheartach the son of Niall;  
 And we were not defeated,  
 Through the valour with which we fought.

155

We were a night at Ath-Seanaigh,  
 Without treachery, and without guile; 160  
 Dinner sufficient for an hundred, to be distributed to every  
 twenty,  
*We received* from the brave race of Conall.

We were a night at the everlasting Bearnas,  
 And it was delightful to our army:  
 We were a night, before reaching our home, 165  
 At Lig Inghine Laoidhigh.

We were a night at the green Magh-glas;  
 On the morrow *we reached our home* to drink the goblets;  
 There was noise of rejoicing, with glory,  
 In thy great house O Muircheartach. 170

From the green Lochan na n-each  
 A page was despatched to Aileach  
 To tell Dubhdaire of the black hair,

To

the year 1608.

163. *Bearnas*,—i. e. *the gap, or chasm*. It is still the name of a very remarkable gap in a mountain in the barony of Tir-hugh and county of Donegal, and about five miles to the east of the town of Donegal. The road leading from Donegal to Stranorlar passes through it.

166. *Lig Inghine Laoidhigh*. — Not known to the Editor.

167. *Magh glas*,—i. e. *the green plain*, was the ancient name of a level tract in

the barony of Raphoe and county of Donegal, but it is now forgotten.

171. *Lochan na neach*,—i. e. the small lake of the horses. The name is now lost.

173. Dubhdaire was Muircheartach's queen at this time. She was the daughter of the Chief of Ossory. The meaning of the word *baill* in this line is uncertain. It is again applied to Dubhdaire in line 222, and in line 247 to Donnchadh monarch of Ireland, and may by a figure of speech

mná do cùp iр in luachair.

Еиріг լսար а Óhuబdoіре,  
dam ронн do chum do thoighe,  
friothail cec n-suine dіb  
map do friothailte aіpðriг.

175

Abaир fñim cia dam тicc ann,  
in Oileach ruipeс Rígrеann?  
inniг dam a gille гil,  
co n-deapnari i friothailim.

180

Rioðraioe Ереann i ngeimlib  
maille ne Mac Neill neimniг,  
veic céв laech i n-дaiрcced grynn,  
do Chenel Eogain eg, fñnd.

185

Ro ba buiøeach Mac De ðein  
do Mhuircheartach, do Mac Neill;  
nob cian i треiri ðanba,  
d'ua Neill Friorraig no chalma.

190

Ro friothailci an Rioðraio peil,  
ionur nob ail do cloinn Neill,  
cen bñon, cen duba 'ran тiг,

im

signify of the black hair, being the genitive case of oael or oaoil, *a chafer*, an insect remarkable for its jet black colour.

174. Ir in luachair,—lit. “to send women into the rushes,” i. e. to cut rushes to strew the floors, and perhaps to make beds for the soldiers. The custom of strewing the floors with green rushes is still common in Ireland, and continued in England to so late a period as the

reign of Queen Elizabeth.

175. These are the words of the gilly, or messenger, to the Queen of Aileach.

179. These are the words of the Queen of Aileach to the gilly, or messenger.

180. *Aileach Rigreann*.—The palace of Aileach was so called from Rigreann, or Frigreann, the architect, by whom it was erected towards the latter end of the third century.

To send women *to cut* rushes.

"Rise up O'Dubhdaire," (*spake the page*),

175

"Here is company coming to thy house,  
Attend each man of them  
As a monarch should be attended."

"Tell to me," (*she answered*), "what company comes hither,

To the lordly Aileach-Rigreann,  
Tell me, O fair page,  
That I may attend them."

180

"The kings of Erin in fetters," (*he replies*),

"With Muircheartach son of warlike Niall,  
Ten hundred heroes of distinguished valour  
Of the race of the fierce fair Eoghan."

185

The Son of the living God was pleased

With Muircheartach, the son of Niall;  
Long in possession of the sovereignty of Banba  
Be the descendant of Niall Frassach, the most valiant.

190

The noble kings were attended

According to the pleasure of the race of Niall,  
Without sorrow, without gloom in the house,

As

183. This quatrain contains the gilly's answer.

orders in the monastery of St. Columbkille, on the island of Iona, where he died in the year 778. The hero of this poem is thus descended from him :

186. *Eg* is here used for *erg*, *sharp*, *fierce*.—See O'Brien's Dictionary *in voce*.

Niall Frossach, King of Ireland.

189. *Banba*, was one of the most ancient names by which the bardic writers call Ireland.

|  
Aedh Oirdnighe, King of Ireland.

190. *Ua Neill Fprparq*,—i. e. descendant of Niall Frossach. Niall Frossach became monarch of Ireland in the year 763; after a reign of seven years he abdicated the crown, and entered into holy

Niall Cainne, King of Ireland.

|  
Aedh Finliath, King of Ireland.

Niall Glundubh, King of Ireland.

|  
Muircheartach of the Leather Cloaks.

im mar no bheitir cleirig.

Deich b-pichit muc,—monar n-ðlan,  
deich b-pichit bo, dá ched darr,  
po tuairccé iind Oiliuch eisneach,  
do Mhuircheartaí tóili g-eimleach.

195

Tri pichit daibach do ghrisid,  
rocharidé dañr paoilreac ghrisid,  
co b-furthain do mlois meadhraoch,  
do Mhuircheartaí tóili-meannnaí.

200

Da ñabairg decc do mlois meann  
tucaid do Riochnaide Eireann,  
ppoind ced ni ceic blad co m-blaid,  
ind aifðairc doir o'n Riocháin.

205

Saib ñealaig Þabhairn na n-gleann  
po deleid do mnaib Eireann,  
im geanur, im chell gan col,  
im thabhairt, im thioðnucol.

210

Beandaict ceic riñr co u-teangaid  
þor inigin mati tóir Cheallaig,  
ocur beandaict Chriur gluin gle  
þor inigin Ríg Orrairge.

Nocta n-þaca tearf no thuaid,  
ule pon Eriinn aram-ruai,

215

nocha

195. *Monar*,—is very frequently used in ancient Irish poems.—See line 235. It is now obsolete, but O'Dugan in his *Foras Focal*, and O'Clery in his Glossary of obsolete Irish words, explain it by the modern word *obair*, a work.

199. *Curds*,—were much used by the

Irish as an article of food.—See Spenser on *Booles*, Dublin edition, p. 82, where he says, that the Irish who lived in *Booles* fed only on the milk and white-meats of their cattle.

200. *Ghrisid*,—a disagreeable look; the dejected, cheerless look of a hungry man.

As if they had been clerics.	
Ten score hogs—no small work,—	195
Ten score cows, two hundred oxen, Were slaughtered at the festive Aileach, For Muircheartach of the great fitters.	—
Three score vats of curds, Which banished the hungry look of the army, With a sufficiency of cheering mead Were given by the magnanimous Muircheartach.	200
Twelve vats of choice mead Were given to the kings of Erin, The dinner of an hundred of each <i>kind of</i> food, nobly <i>Was given</i> gratuitously to them from the Queen.	205
Sabia of Ballagh-Gabhran, <i>district</i> of glens, Has surpassed the women of Erin, In chastity, in wisdom, in purity, In giving, in bestowing.	210
The blessing of every man with a tongue <i>Be</i> on the good, great daughter of Kellach; And the blessing of the pure and glorious Christ <i>Be</i> on the daughter of the King of Ossory.	
I have not seen <i>in</i> South or North, Throughout all Erin of red weapons,	215

## I

See O'Brien's Dict. *in voce*.

201. *Fupnechain*,—is now obsolete, but O'Clery explains it by the modern words *ráram no daoréim*, *enough, sufficiency*.

207. *Ballagh Gabhran*,—i. e. the road or pass of Gowran in Ossory.—See line 78. This Sadbh or Sabia was in all probability the mother of Dubhdara, Queen of Aileach.

The name *Sadbh* is still in use as a woman's name, but anglicised Sarah, or Sally.

212. See the note on line 173. Kellach was King of Ossory; he was killed in the battle of *Bealach Mughna*, near Carlow, in the year 908.—See note, line 75.

215. *Noċa n-ċaca*,—Would be now

nocha n-fuaifur, étar no éor,  
bean mar do mnaoi, a Mhuiircéarthaig.

Cén po baoi an Riográid na n-dreann  
ind Ailiuch ruipeac Ériugneann,  
gán choindmeadh fóir neach oile  
aict fóir Dubh n-dail n-dagd doirfe.

220

Dubðoirpe nochan feapp  
occlach oile buisheach;  
dia iñ duine agra toig  
Dubðoirpe ua Tígearpnoig.

225

Tucctha logh a leanna lain  
do Dhubðoirpe vil, dreachnair,  
do chreiche Dal Agraide uair,  
d'óir do ðamairib do ðeaghbhuaib.

230

Fiche bo ind cech mboin co mblad,  
fiche darr ind ceach aen darr,  
fiche muc cec' muic, ba rat,  
do Dubðoirpe o Mhuiircéarthaig.

I g-cind coicc tioig,—monar n-glan,  
po leiccti an Riográid fóir mag,  
dia m-bríte do Donnchaid mac Flóinn,  
do Ríg Midé mor, alainn.

235

Arrut duit an Riográid neil,  
ar Mhuiircéarthaig, ar Mac Nell,  
oír aig tu a Óhonchaid, dearbh leam,  
duine aig feappi d'feappaib Eireann.

240

Ar

written n-fuar in the south and west of Ireland, and ca n-fuar in the north.

219. Cén po baoi,— would be expressed in the modern Irish fecò oo bì.

223. There is some defect in this quatrain.

230. Co m-blad, nobly,—is inserted here merely for the sake of rhyme, and

I have not seen in West or East  
 A woman like thy wife O Muircheartach.

While the kings of battles were *detained*

In the lordly Aileach Frigreann, 220  
 They *received* no coigne from any one else  
 Except from the good Dubhdaire the black-haired.

O Dubhdaire, it is not better

That any other youth *than myself* should be thankful;  
 God and man go thankful from the house 225  
 Of Dubhdaire, descendant of Tighernach.

The reward of her plenteous ale was given

To the lovely, modest-faced Dubhdaire,  
 Out of the plunder of the cold Dalaradia,  
 In gold, in oxen, in good cows. 230

Twenty cows for every cow, nobly,

Twenty oxen for every one ox,  
 Twenty hogs for every hog.—a good return,—  
*Were given* to Dubhdaire, by Muircheartach.

At the end of five months,—a noble work,—

The kings were led out on the plain,  
 To be brought to Donnchadh, the son of Flann,  
 To the great and splendid King of Meath.

“Here are the noble kings for thee.”

Said Muircheartach, the son of Niall, 240  
 “For thou, O Donnchadh, it is certain to me,  
 Art the best man of the men of Erin.”

“Thou

has scarcely a glimpse of meaning. It and husband were considered as distinct,  
 occurs again ver. 251. at the period when this poem was written.

234. It appears from this passage that 237. Donnchadh, the son of Flann, was at  
 the possessions and property of the wife this time monarch of all Ireland, though

Ar fearrí tu-řa anuřa a Rí,  
 riost nochá gēb neach i g-cré,  
 ar tu tuig an rioghráidheil,  
 a Muircheartach tóic móir Neill.

245

Ar fearrí tu-řa, a Óhoncháidheil,  
 inðar duine 'n-áir d-talmáin;  
 gíre beirr h-i d-Teamraig teinn,  
 ar é ar airdh-rídg fóir Ériann.  
 Beir mo beandachtain co mblois,  
 a meic Nell glunduib gle gloin,  
 copor uait gabthap Teamair,  
 a fíath Locha pinn Feabail.

250

Córop lat' chinel Maig m-þreagd,  
 gurab leu Teamair thaoibhgeal,  
 co m-bett geill Daeideal ic' taid,  
 a Mhic mait, a Muircheartach.

255

### A MUIRCHEARTACH.

here called King of Meath, for no other reason than because he resided in Meath.

243. The dialogue is supposed to be continued to the end of the poem. Donnchadh here replies to the compliment of Muircheartach; who rejoins by a further compliment, (ver. 247—250); and Donnchadh concludes by praying that Muircheartach may become his successor.

249. Tara was not inhabited at this period, nor had it been since the sixth

century; but the chiefs of the southern Hy-Niall family when they became monarchs continued to be styled kings of Tara, because that was a phrase understood to mean monarch of Ireland. Indeed, the monarch of Ireland was, by the poets, generally styled King of Tara wherever he resided; as, for example, Malachy II. was generally so called, though he lived at *Dun na Sciath*, on the brink of Lough Ennell, not far from Mullingar,

“ Thou art better now thyself, O King !  
 With thee no one can vie ;  
 It is thou who didst take *captive* the noble kings,      245  
 O Muircheartach, son of great Niall.”

“ Thou art better thyself, O Donnchadh the black-haired !  
 Than any man in our land,  
 Whoever is in strong Tara  
 He it is that is monarch of Erin.”      250

“ Receive my blessing, nobly,  
 O son of Niall Glundubh, bright, pure,  
 May Tara be possessed by thee,  
 O prince of the bright Loch Feabhail !

“ May thy race possess Magh Breagh,      255  
 May they possess white-sided Tara,  
 May the hostages of the Gael be in thy house,  
 O good son, O Muircheartach !”

#### O MUIRCHEARTACH.

and even Brian Boru was styled King of Tara, though he lived at Kincora, in the present town of Killaloe, in the county of Clare.

254. *Loch Feabhail*.—Now Lough Foyle, near Derry.

255. *May thy race*.—To get possession of Magh Breagh is another mode of saying to become monarch of Ireland ; for the plain of Magh Breagh, in which the regal palace of Tara was situated, was originally included in the mensal lands of the monarch.

259. *Ci Mhuircheartach*.—It is the custom of Irish scribes to write at the end of every poem, the word or words with which it commences. This originated in the rule that every poem should end with the same word with which it began ; and when this rule was violated, and afterwards, as in the present instance, whether it was violated or not, the initial words were repeated at the end, as being deemed necessary to the completion or perfection of the poem.



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**ADDITIONAL NOTES.**

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## ADDITIONAL NOTES.

### NOTE A. *See page 26.*

#### GENEALOGY OF VISCOUNT O'NEILL.

The noble family of O'Neill have taken their surname from Niall Glundubh, who was monarch of Ireland for three years, and was slain A. D. 919. The genealogy of the present Lord O'Neill in descent from this monarch is as follows :—

1. NIALL GLUNDUBH.
2. MUIRCHEARTACH of the Leather Cloak, Prince of Aileach, killed A.D. 943.
3. Domhnall (Donnell) of Armagh, Prince of Aileach, died 980.
4. Muircheartach Midheach, killed by Amlaif the Dane, 975.
5. Flaitbhheartach (Flahertach) *an traidseoir*, or of the Pilgrim's Staff, went to Rome in 1030, and died in 1036.
6. Aodh (Hugh) Atlamain, died 1033.
7. Domhnall.
8. Flaitbhheartach.
9. Conchobhar (Conor) na Fiadhga.
10. Tadgh Glinne.
11. Muircheartach of Moylinny.
12. Aodh (Hugh) Toinleac, died 1230.
  
13. Aodh (Hugh) Meith.
14. Domhnall Og.
15. Aodh Boy I., Chief of Clannaboy, slain in 1283.
16. Brian.
17. Henry.
18. Muircheartach Ceannfada.
19. Brian Ballach, Chief of Clannaboy, slain in 1426.
20. Aodh Boy II., Chief of Clannaboy, slain 1444.
21. Con of Belfast, died 1482.
22. Niall of Edenduffcarrick, Chief of Clannaboy, died 1537.
  
23. Feidhlimidh (Felim) Bacach.
24. Brian, murdered in 1574. He is called the senior of the race of Eoghan by the Four Masters.
25. John, died in 1619.
  
26. Sir Henry, died 1637.
26. Arthur.
27. John.
28. Charles, died in 1769.
29. John, made Baron O'Neill in 1793, Viscount 1795, murdered 1798.
  
30. Charles Henry St. John, created Earl O'Neill, 1800, died 1841, and with him the earldom expired.
30. John Bruce, born 1780, Viscount O'Neill, on the death of his brother, 1841, and with him this ancient and noble line becomes extinct for ever.

23. Brian Faghartach, i. e. of Kinelarty, Chief of Clannaboy, slain by John the Proud, of Tyrone, in 1548.

24. Niall.

25. Feidhlimidh (Felim).

26. Aodh (Hugh) Mergeach.

27. Eoghan (Owen), died in 1744.

28. John O'Neill, of Banville, "a man remarkable for prodigious strength, majestic form, princely deportment, affable manners, and unbounded benevolence."—*Hist. Armagh*, pp. 130, 630.

NOTE B. *See page 43.*

## GENEALOGY OF MAC CARTHY.

1. Ceallachan (Callaghan) Cashel, King of Munster, died 954.  
 2. Domhnadh (Donogh) died 962.

3. Murchadh, or Murrogh, died 1014.	3. Scerbhrethach or Justin, a minor in 977, Ann. Inisf.
4. Domhnall, or Donnell, died 1044.	4. Carthach, the progenitor, from whom the name Mac Carthy is derived, was called after the great St. Carthach, of Lismore. He was chief of Eoghanacht-Chaisil, and was killed in 1045.
5. Ceallachan, or Callaghan, from whom the surname of O'Callaghan is derived, living in 1092.	5. Muiredhach Mac Carthy, died 1095.
6. Cinneide, or Kennedy.	6. Cormac of Moytawny, King of Desmond, celebrated by St. Bernard, died 1138.
7. Aodh, or Hugh.	7. Diarmaid, of Kill Baghaine, King of Desmond, slain 1185.
8. Murchadh, or Murrogh.	8. Domhnall (Donnell) Mor na Curra, King of Desmond, slain 1185.
9. Mathghamhain, or Mahon.	9. Cormac Finn, King of Desmond, died 1215.
10. Magrath.	10. Domhnall Ruadh (Donnell Roe), King of Desmond, died 1302.
11. Lochluinn, or Loughlin.	11. Domhnall (Donnell) Og, King of Desmond, died 1303.
12. Macileachluinn, or Melaghlin.	12. Cormac, King of Desmond, 1320.
13. Magrath.	13. Diarmaid (Dermot) Mor, of Muskerry.
14. Cinneide, or Kennedy.	14. Cormac.
15. Domhnadh, or Donogh.	15. Tadhg.
16. Conchobhar Laighneach, (Conor Lynagh).	16. Cormac, slain 1495.
17. Tadhg Ruadh.	17. Cormac Og, surnamed the Robust.
18. Domhnadh.	18. Tadhg (Teige).
19. Conchobhar, or Conor.	19. Diarmaid (Dermot).
20. Ceallachan, or Callaghan.	20. Cormac, Lord Viscount Muskerry in 1601.
21. Cathaoir Modhartha (Cahir Moder).	21. Domhnall (Donnell) Spaineach, i. e. the Spaniard.
22. Domhnadh, or Donogh.	22. Cormac Spaineach.
23. Domhnadh Og.	23. Domhnall, or Donnell Mac Carthy, died at Carrignavar in 1692. He married Lady Caher, who died in 1703.
24. Domhnall, or Donnell.	24. Domhnall, or Daniel.
25. Domhnadh (Donogh), or Denis O'Callaghan, Esq., living in 1773. The Editor does not know how the present Lord Lismore descends from this line. Dr. O'Brien states (Irish Dictionary, <i>in voce POBULL CHEALLACHAIN</i> ) that the chief of this family was transplanted by Oliver Cromwell from the county of Cork into the county of Clare, where Donogh O'Callaghan, Esq., was then chief of the name.	25. Domhnall (Daniel) Og.
	26. Robert.
	27. Justin, now living at Carrignavar. He is the present senior representative of the noble house of Mac Carthy, of Muskerry, and possesses a considerable remnant of the territory of his ancestors.

NOTE C. *See page 49.*

## GENEALOGY OF O'CONOR DON.

1. Tadhg, or Teige of the Three Towers, King of Connaught,  
| died in 954.
2. CONCHOBHAR or CONOR, King of Connaught, the progenitor  
| of the O'CONORS of Connaught, died in 972.
3. Cathal, King of Connaught, died 1009.
4. Tadhg, or Teige, of the *White Steed*, King of Connaught, killed  
| 1030.
5. Aodh, or Hugh, of the *Broken Spear*, the heroic King of Con-  
naught, killed 1067.
6. Ruaidhri, or Roderic, of the *Yellow Hound*, King of Con-  
naught, dethroned in 1092.
7. Toirdhealbhach, or Torlogh, More, Monarch of Ireland for  
| twenty years, died in 1156.
8. Cathal Croibhdhearg, or Charles the Redhanded, King of Con-  
naught, brother of King Roderic, died in 1224.
9. Ruaidhri, or Roderic, the brother of Hugh, King of Con-  
naught, who was killed in 1228.
10. Eoghan or Owen, King of Connaught, killed in 1278.
11. Aodh, or Hugh, King of Connaught, killed in 1309.
12. Toirdhealbhach, or Torlogh, King of Connaught, killed in  
| 1345.
13. Aodh, or Hugh, King of Connaught, killed in 1356.
14. Toirdhealbhach, or Torlogh, Don, the ancestor of O'Conor  
| Don, and the last who was inaugurated King of the Irish  
of Connaught, killed 1406.
15. Feidhlim, or Felim, Geangeach, chief of his name, killed in  
| 1474.
16. Eoghan, or Owen, Caech, chief of his name, died at Ballinto-  
ber in 1485.
17. Cairbre, or Carbry, died at Ballintober in 1546.
18. Diarmuid, or Dermot, flourished in 1585.
19. Aodh, or Hugh, O'Conor Don, of Ballintober, died 1627.
20. Cathal, or Charles, O'Conor, of Belanagare, died 1634.
21. Cathal, or Charles, Oge O'Conor, of Belanagare, died in 1696.
22. Donnchadh, or Denis, O'Conor, of Belanagare, died 1756.
23. Charles O'Conor, of Belanagare, the historian, born 1710,  
| died 1790.
24. Denis O'Conor, of Belanagare, died in 1804.
25. Owen O'Conor, of Belanagare, who, on the  
| death of his kinsman, the O'Conor Don  
[Dominic] of Clonalis in 1795, took the  
name of The O'Conor Don.
26. Denis O'Conor Don, now The O'Conor Don.
25. Charles, [Editor  
of the *Rer. Hib.  
Scriptores.*] 25. Mathew, of Mount-  
| Druid.
26. Denis.



# I N D E X.

[The references are to the lines of the Poem].

	<i>Line.</i>		<i>Line.</i>
	A.		
A Bhainn Ifrinn, . . . . .	138, n.	Cill Dalua, (now <i>Killaloe</i> ), . . . . .	127
Aedh Finnliath, . . . . .	12	Cinel Conaill, . . . . .	162
Aileach, . . . . .	3, 150, 180, 219	Clar Daire-Mor, . . . . .	89
Aillinn, . . . . .	67	Coigny, meaning of, . . . . .	91, n.
Almhain, Hill of, (now <i>Allen</i> ), . . .	67, n.	Conall Gulban, . . . . .	162, n.
Ath-Cliath, (now <i>Dublin</i> ), . . . . .	41	Conchobhar Mac Taidhg, . . . . .	147
Ath Cliath Meadhraighe, (now <i>Clarin Bridge</i> ), . . . . .	128, n.	Conchobhar Mac Nessa, . . . . .	10, n.
Ath-Coille, . . . . .	131	Conchobhar, Province of, . . . . .	22
Ath-Gabhla, . . . . .	37	Corca Eastrach, . . . . .	102, n.
Ath mac Cing, (now <i>Headford</i> , County Galway), . . . . .	143	Coshma, barony of, . . . . .	120
Ath-Seanaigh, (now <i>Ballyshannon</i> ), .	159	Cretshalach, (now <i>Cratlagh</i> , Co. Clare),	134
		Cuchullin, . . . . .	9
		Curoir Mac Daire, . . . . .	17, 20
	B.		
Banba, . . . . .	189	Dalaradia, . . . . .	228
Bealach Gabhrain, (now <i>Gowran-road</i> , County Kilkenny), . . . . .	78, 207	Donnchadh, . . . . .	236
Bealach Mughna, (now <i>Ballaghmoon</i> , County Kildare), . . . . .	75, 212, n.	Dun-Eachdach, ( <i>Dunaghy</i> , Co. Antrim),	29
Bearnas, . . . . .	163	Dun Liamhna, (now <i>Dunlavan</i> ), .	59, n.
Breasal Bealach, King of Leinster, .	71, n.	Dubhdaire, . . . . .	173, 225, 227, 233
Breagh-mhagh, . . . . .	38		
Britan, . . . . .	88		
	C.		
Callaghan, King of Cashel, . . . . .	115	Eiscir Riada, boundary described,	128, n.
Casan Linnè, (river <i>Lagan</i> ), . . . . .	35	Eoghan, . . . . .	6, n.
Cathair Duin Iascaigh, (now <i>Cahir</i> ),	95, n.	Eoghanacht Chaisil, . . . . .	95, n.
Ceann Coradh, ( <i>Kincora</i> ), . . . . .	129		
	F.		
Faolan, . . . . .	71, n.		
Fergus Mac Roich, . . . . .	13		
Fliodais, . . . . .	79		
Fregabhall, (river <i>Ravel</i> ), . . . . .	29, n.		

G.	Line.	Line.
Galls, . . . . .	42, n.	27
Glen-Mama, . . . . .	61	40
Glenn Righé, . . . . .	34	33
Grianan, . . . . .	4	141
Grian Airbh, (now <i>Greane</i> ), . . . . .	87, n.	n.
H.		
Headford, . . . . .	143, n.	
Hy-Cairbre, . . . . .	120	
Hy-Kenselach, . . . . .	62	
I.		
Inis Fail, . . . . .	2	
K.		
Kellach, King of Ossory, . . . . .	212	
Kilcolman, . . . . .	89, n.	
L.		
Leath Cuinn, . . . . .	128	
Leath Mogha, . . . . .	ib.	
Liamhain, (now <i>Dunlavan</i> ), . . . . .	59	
Lig Inghine Laoidhígh, . . . . .	166	
Linn Duachaill, (now <i>Magheralin</i> ), . . . . .	35, n.	
Liné, . . . . .	27	
Lochan na neach, . . . . .	171	
Loch Feabhail, (now <i>Lock Foyle</i> ), . . . . .	254	
Loch Riach, (now <i>Loughrea</i> ), . . . . .	139	
Lorcan O Breasail, . . . . .	71	
Luimneach, (now <i>Limerick</i> ) . . . . .	130	
M.		
Mac Carthy, pedigree of, . . . . .	115, n.	
Machaire Chonacht, . . . . .	150, n.	
Magh Adhair, . . . . .	138	
Magh Ai, . . . . .	150	
Magh Airbh, . . . . .	87	
Magh Feimin, . . . . .	95	
Magh glas, . . . . .	167	
N.		
Niall Frossach, . . . . .		190, n.
Niall Glundubh, . . . . .		1, n.
O.		
O'Brien, inauguration of the, . . . . .		138, n.
Oenach-cros, . . . . .		25
O'Callaghan, pedigree of, . . . . .		115, n.
O'Conor Don, pedigree of, . . . . .		147, n.
O'Donovan, descent of, . . . . .		120, n.
O'Neill, pedigree of, . . . . .		1, n.
R.		
Rath Guaire, . . . . .		151
Rigreann, . . . . .		180
Rinn Tamhan, (now <i>Towan Point</i> ), . . . . .		128, n.
S.		
Sadhbh, . . . . .		207
Sitric, . . . . .		54
Sliabh-Suidhe an righ, where, . . . . .		135, n.
Sliabh na m-ban bh-fionn, (now <i>Sieve na man</i> ), . . . . .		95, n.
Srath an-fhiren, . . . . .		153
Suil Daimh, . . . . .		155
T.		
Tighernach, . . . . .		225
Tubbridbritain, . . . . .		88, n.
U.		
Uladh, ( <i>Ulidia</i> ), . . . . .		31

A BRIEF  
DESCRIPTION OF IRELAND:

1590.



A BRIEF  
DESCRIPTION OF IRELAND:

1590.

EDITED BY  
AQUILLA SMITH, M.D., M.R.I.A.

DUBLIN:  
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## INTRODUCTION.

THE second edition of this little tract was not known to be in existence until November, 1840, at which time it was purchased at a book sale, in Dublin, at a very considerable price, by a member of the "Irish Archæological Society," who has kindly permitted it to be reprinted.

It contains many interesting particulars, which are narrated in a manner calculated to impress the reader with perfect confidence in the fidelity of the Author's relation of what he "discovered and learned" during his residence in the South of Ireland.

It may be assumed that it is of extreme rarity, as it is not mentioned in Harris's edition of Sir James Ware's "History of the Writers of Ireland;" neither does it appear in the valuable Catalogue of Manuscripts and Printed Books, relating to this country, compiled by the late General Vallancey, and presented to the Library of the Royal Irish Academy in February, 1839, by the Marquis of Normanby, at that time Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; nor is it to be found in any of the public libraries in Dublin.

The earliest bibliographical notice of the first edition of Payne's tract is given by Ames, with the title as follows:—"A Briefe description of Ireland: Made in this year. 1589. by Robert Payne. vnto xxv. of his partners, for whom he is vndertaker there. Truely published verbatim, according to his letters, by Nich. Gorsan, of Trowell, Nottinghamshire, one of the sayd partners, for that he would his countreymen should be partakers of the many good notes therein contayned. The Three Cranes, &c.," 16mo. 1589.—*Typog. Antiq. 4to. 1786.* Vol. ii. p. 1127.

This description has been copied in the "Bibliotheca Britannica" by Watts, who has printed Corsan instead of Gorsan.

Lowndes in his Manual, 1834, gives a very short notice of it, without reference to any sale catalogue.

The circumstance of the first edition only, of this tract, being known to these authors, attaches much interest to the second and *enlarged* "impression," a reprint of which is now presented to the members of the "Irish Archaeological Society."

Of the author, Robert Payne or Paine, (p. 9), little more is known than that he appears to have been resident manager in Ireland for "xxv. of his partners," for each of whom and himself, he provided four hundred acres of land in the county of Cork, (p. 7).

It may be presumed that he was selected for this office, on account of having previously directed his attention in England to agricultural pursuits, and the means of improving waste grounds, for he was probably the Robert Payn who published, in 1583, a work on this subject, whose title is given by Ames as follows:—"Rob: Payn his Hill-mans Table, which sheweth how to make Ponds to continue water in high and drie grounde, of what nature soever. Also the Vale-mans Table, shewing how to draine moores, and all other wette groundes, and to lay them drie for euer. Also how to measure any roufe ground, wood or water, that you cannot come into, &c. Prin. 1583."—*Typog. Antiq.*, Vol. iii. p. 1662.

His letters are dated from a place called "Poynes-end," (p. 9), the exact locality of which the Editor has not been able to discover.

The Author appears to have fully appreciated the great advantages which would result from judiciously cultivating the soil of this fertile island; and by abstaining from national reflections, and divesting himself of all undue prejudices, he is prominently distinguished from many of the writers of his time, who too commonly

"——— judg'd the many, by the rascal few."

The origin of the "Undertakers," to which class of persons Payne belonged, may now be briefly noticed.

By the Act of Attainder passed in 1586, the twenty-eighth year of Elizabeth, against Gerald Fitzgerald, the sixteenth and last Earl of Desmond, and his accomplices in rebellion,—*Irish Statutes at large*, Vol. i. p. 418,—property, amounting in all to 574,628 acres of land, was forfeited, and became vested in

the

the Queen, except what was restored to Patrick Condon, and the White Knight, &c.

Her Majesty was intent on peopling Munster with English settlers, and letters were written to every county in England to encourage younger brothers to become “undertakers” in Ireland, a name applied to the settlers on account of their being obliged to undertake to observe certain conditions enjoyned by the Queen.

The plan devised for the plantation of Munster, was, to divide the forfeited lands into seignories; and to require each undertaker for 12,000 acres, to plant eighty-six families upon his estate, viz.—

His own family to have . . . . .	1600 acres.
One chief farmer . . . . .	400 . .
Two good farmers . . . . .	600 . .
Two other farmers . . . . .	400 . .
Fourteen free-holders, each 300 acres . . . .	4200 . .
Forty copy-holders, each 100 acres . . . .	4000 . .
Twenty-six cottagers and labourers . . . .	<hr/> 800 . .
	<hr/> 12,000 . .

And so proportionably for smaller seignories.

The inducements to settle in Ireland were very great. The Queen proposed to give estates in fee, at two-pence the acre, in the counties of Cork and Waterford, to be rent free till March, 1590, and to pay but half the rent for the next three years, thenceforth they were to hold in soccage; to have liberty for ten years to transport the growth of their lands, duty free, to any place in amity with England; to be free from cess for ever; to have liberty to import necessaries from England, free of custom; and no Irish were to be permitted to reside on the lands; with several other covenants, some of which her Majesty did not perform, particularly that of keeping troops for the security of the settlers in Munster.

On the 26th of April, 1587, a commission was issued to several persons of rank, authorizing them “to make books to the undertakers of Munster, which shall be a sufficient warrant to the Chancellor to pass patents accordingly.”—

*Cox's History of Ireland*, fol. 1689, Part I. p. 392—5.

Cox's account has been preferred to that given by Smith, in his History of Cork, whose statement respecting the plot for the plantation of Munster, bears evidence

evidence in itself, that it is not correct, for out of a seignory of 12,000 acres, he accounts for the disposal of only 6600; and his abstract of the Queen's Articles, which were dated 27 June, 1586, differs from Cox's account in several particulars.—See *Smith's Cork*, 2 Ed., Vol. i. p. 54.

It is only necessary to add, that the original copy of this tract consists of sixteen small pages including the title page, on the back of which is printed page 2, beginning close to the upper margin without any short title, or other mark of commencement, except a large initial letter: there are thirty-five lines in each page except the last, which has only six, and they are numbered in the middle of the upper margin.

The Editor has not thought it expedient to adopt the peculiarity of commencing the text on the back of the title page in the present reprint, as the size of the page does not admit of an exact fac-simile; but the orthography and punctuation have been accurately copied. Italic capitals are sometimes used in the original, owing apparently to the printer having been deficient in Roman type, but this defect was not considered of sufficient importance to be retained. An index has been added by the Editor.

A. S.

*June, 1841.*

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**A Brief**

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A

# Brife description of Ireland:

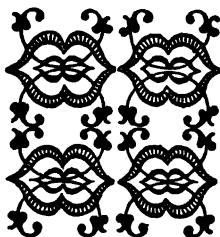
*Made in this yeere. 1589. by Robert  
Payne. vnto xxv. of his partners for  
whom he is undertaker there*

Truely published verbatim, according

*to his letters, by Nich, Gorsan one of the said part-  
ners, for that he would his countrymen should be  
partakers of the many good Notes  
therein conteined.*

*With diuers Notes taken out of others*

*the Authoures letters written to his  
said partners, sithenes the first Im-  
pression, well worth the rea-  
ding.*



AT LONDON,  
Printed by Thomas Dawson.

1590.



**L**ET not the reportes of those that haue spent all their owne and what they could by any meanes get from others in England, discourage you from Ireland, although they and such others by bad dealinges haue wrought a generall discredit to all English men, in that countrie which are to the Irishe vnownen.

These men will say there is great danger in trauelling the countrie, and much more to dwell or inhabite there: yet are they freed from three of the greatest dangers: first, they cannot meete in all that land any worsse then themselues: secondly, they neede not feare robbing for that they haue not anye thing to loose: lastly, they are not like to runne in debte, for that there is none will trust them. The greatest matter which troubleth them is, they cannot get any thinge there but by honest trauell, which they are altogether ignorant of. These men cannot tell what good fruities England hath, the which Ireland wanteth, neyther can they iustly saye, but that it lieth better for the vent of all commodities then England doeth.

What these men haue reported or what the simple haue credited, that would rather beleue a runneagate then trauell to see, I care not. But what I haue discouered or learned in that countrie, I will herein recite vnto you.

First, the people are of three sortes, the better sorte are very ciuill and honestly giuen: the most of them greatly inclined to husbandrie, although as yet vnskilful, notwithstanding through their great trauell many of them are rich in cattell: some one man there milketh one hundred kine, and two or three hundred yeawes and goates, and reareth yeerely most of their breed.

Their entertainement for your diet shalbe more welcome and plentifull, then cleanly and handsome: for although they did neuer see you before, they will make you the best cheare their country yeeldeth for two or three dayes, and take not any thing therefore. Most of them speake good English and bring vp their childrē to learning. I saw in a Grammer schoole in *Limbrick*, one hundred, & threscore schollers, most of them speaking good and perfitt English, for that they haue vsed to conster the Latin into English. They keepe their promise faithfully, and are more desirous of peace then our English men, for that in time of warres they are more charged, And also they are fatter praies for the enemie, who respecteth no person. They are quicke witted and of good constitution of bodie: they reforme them selues dayly more and more after the English manners: nothing is more pleasing vnto them, then to heare of good Iustices placed amongst them. They haue a common saying which I am perswaded they speake vn-

feinedly, which is, *Defend me and spend me*: meaning from the oppression of the worser sorte of our countrymen: They are obediēt to the laws, so that you may trauel through all the land without any danger or iniurie offered of the verye worst Irish, and be greatly releueed of the best.

The second sorte being least in number are called *Kernes*, they are warlike men: most of that sorte were slayne in the late warres.

The third sorte, are a very idle people, not vnlike our English beggers, yet for the most parte, of pure complexion and good constitution of bodie: one of the greatest ouersights in the better sorte is, for that they make not that idle sort givē account of their life.

They haue the English lawes and gouernours as in England. First, there is a Lord deputy ouer the whole land, that representeth her Maiesty, also a Lord Chancellor, a lord Treasurer a Lorde chife Iustice, and all other Maiestrates, Officers and Courts, in like maner as belongeth to Westminster.

The land is deuided into fие great parts: that is to saye *Munster*, *Lanster*, *Canath*, *Meath*, and *Vlster*. In *Munster*, are these vii. great countries: *Owrmwood*, *Deasmond*, *Corke*, *Waterford*, *Typerare*, *Lymbericke*, and *Carrey*. A great parte of *Munster*, was forfited to her Maiestie by meanes of the *Deasmondes* late rebellion.

There is two very rich countries called *Kennory* and *Coneologh*, both within the countie of *Lemerick*: and they are called the gardenes of the land for the varietie and great plentie of all graine and fruities: and also there is more plentie of venison, fish and foule then else where in Ireland, although in euery place there is great store. This land belonged some-to the knight of the valley, who for high treason was executed at *Lemerick*. Ouer euery part is an Englishman liefetenant which hath authoritie as fully as the Marshall, to execute Marshall lawes vpon the Irish offenders at all times. Also there are Judges of assizes for euery circute, who keepe their assies as our Judges doe: if any matter be to bee tryed there betweene an Englishman and an Irish, the Iury is halfe English and halfe Irish. There is a sheriffe of euerye countie, with vndersherriffes, Arrant bayliffes, and all other officers appertaining. Also ther is a conuenient number of Iustices of peace in euery countie with Constables and pettie Constables, who keepe their quarter sessions orderly.

The countrie is scituated somwhat neerer the Equinoctial line then England, but yet for that it lyeth more vppon the Ocean seas and is full of Riuers and small

small brookes, it is not so hot in summer as England, neyther is it so colde in winter, for that the seas fretteth away the Ice and Snowe there, muche more then in England.

The generall Map of Ireland, which is ioyned with the old Map of England, is most false : The authour (as it seemeth) drew them both by reporte, and the common computation of myles : and made his scale after the English measure that is one thousand paces, or fife thousand foote to the myle : but therein hee greatlye deceiued himselfe : for the shortest myles in England are much longer then that measure, and an Irish myle is longer then two of those myles, by which meanes he hath made the Map of England lesse by the halfe then it should be. Notwithstanding, he hath ouer reached in his nūber of parish Churches, and the Mappe of Ireland littell more then one fourth of that it would be, if it were truely drawnen. This seemeth strange, and hath deceiued manye ignorant in Geometrie: but alwayes take this for a principle, that the square of two myles contayneth just foure times so much as the square of one myle, & so of all proportions from the greatest to the least : wherefore as much may be said of the longe myle which containeth two shorte myles.

Some mistrust that the Spaniards will enter the land, and that the Irishe will releuee them : no doubtē there are some Traytors in Ireland. I woulde I couldē truely saye there were none in England. But this I dare assure you, the greater number, and all the better sorte doe deadly hate the Spaniardes, & yet I thinke they beare them fayre wether, for that they are the popes champions, and a great parte of the Irish (for want of good preaching and discipline) are greatly inclined to papistrie.

But their entertainement this last yeere amongst the Irish (notwithstanding they brought the popes holye candles and pardones) sheweth howe they affecte Spanishe gouernement. Most of the better sort of the Irish haue read of their monsterous cruelties in the west Indians, where they most tiranously haue murthered many millions moe of those simple creatures then now liue in Ireland, euen such as sought their fauours by offering vnto them al that they had, neuer resisting nor offering them any harme. Wherefore I doubt not, that the Irish are so foolish to entertaine such proud questes knowing their tyrannie, and hauing not so well deserued at their handes as those simple soules whom they so cruelly murdered. Neither are the Spaniardes so vnwise to trust those Irish, who so lately imbruied their handes in their blood, slaying them as dogges in such plentifull

tifull manner, that their garmentes went aboue the countrie to be sold, as good cheape as beastes skines. If you haue not the said booke of the Spanishe cruelties, I praye you buy it, it is well woorth the reading, I haue forgotte the title, but it is of a smal volume in quarto: it is written by a learned Bishop of their owne country about forty yeeres sithens in the *Castalian toonge*, and dedicated to theire King for reformation of those cruelties: afterwardes translated into English and diuers other languages, to make their monsterous tirannie knowne to the world. When you haue read the same, commende it to our Catholickes that will bee sauede by their workes, and yet will not giue God thankes at their meate, for that they will not once haue in their mouth the prayer for our Queene, annexed to our vsuall thankes giuing at meate. I pray God open the eyes of their vpholders, and let them se what these men gap for, which is (no doubt) the ruine & ouerthrowe of her highnes, whom I pray God preserue. But none are so blind as they that wil not see. The Catholiks are borne with for their conscience sake, yet from such consciences spring all the Traiterous practises against her Maiestie.

Although some of small iudgements (which thinke euerye soil good that beareth long gras) haue failed of their expected woad crops, by meanes of their vnskilfull choice of grounde, yet assuredly the commodities of the countrie are many moe then eyther the people can well vse or I recite. Their soile for the most part is very fertil, and apte for Wheate, Rye, Barly, Peasone, Beanes, Oates, Woade, Mather, Rape, Hoppes, Hempe, Flaxe and all other graines and frutes that England any wise doth yelde. There is much good timber in manye places, and of that streightnesse and so good to reauue, that a simple workeman with a Brake axe will cleave a greate Oke to boardes of lesse then one ynche thicke, xiiii. ynches broad and xv. footes in length. such a board there is vsually sold for ii. d. ob. There is verie riche and greate plentie of Iron stone, and one sort more then we haue in England, which they call Bogge myne, of the which a Smith there wil make at his forge Iron presently. Also there is great store of Lead Ore, & Wood sufficiente to mayntayne diuers Iron and lead workes (with good husbandrie) for euer. A barrell of Wheate or a barrel of bay Salt contayning three bushels and a halfe of Winchester measure, is sold there for iiiii. s. Malt, Peasone, Beanes, for ii. s. viii. d. Barly for ii. s. iiiii. d. Oates for xx. d. a fresh Sammō worth in London x. s. for vi. d. xxiiii. Herrings or vi. Makerels vi. sea breames, a fat hen, xxx. Egges, a fat Pigge, one pound of Butter, or ii. gallons

gallones of new milke for a penny. A reede Deare without the skinne, for ii. s vi. d. A fat Beefe for xiii. s. iiiii. d. A fat Mutton for xviii. d.

There be great store of wild Swannes, Cranes, Phesantes, Partriges, Heath-cocks, Plouers, greene and gray, Curlewes, Woodcockes, Rayles, Quailes, & all other fowles much more plentifull then in England. You may buy a dozen of Quailes for iii. d. a dozen of Woodcockes for iiiii. d. and all other fowles ratablie. Oysters, muskels, cockels and Samphiere about the sea coastes are to be had for the gathering, great plentie : the Phisitions there holde, that Samphier is a present remedie against the stone : you maye buy the best Heafers there with Calues at their feete, for xx. s. a peece, which are nothinge inferiour to the better sort of Lyncolnshire breed. Their chiefe horsses are of as great price as in England, but carthorsses, mares, & little hackneies are of a very smal price : the meanest Irish man disdaineth to ride on a mare. You may keep a better house in Ireland for L. li. a yeere, then in England for CC. li. a yeere. All your commodities you may transport from the sea side, from the countie of Corke (where I haue prouided for each of vs foure hundred Acres of land) to England for viii. d. the hundred waight, so that you make the same ready about S. Andrewes tide, when the herring fishers goe home from Ireland. The charge of which carriage for so much as you barell, you may saue a great parte through Cheapenes of the caske, and then will most of your commodities, viz. Butter, Cheese, Bacon, Beefe, Honny, Waxe, Tallowe, Corne, and Herring, with diuers other Marchandize be readie for the market.

The worsser sorte of vndertakers which haue seignories of her Maiestie, haue done much hurte in the countie, and discouraged many from the voyage : for they haue enticed many honest men ouer, promising them much but performing nothing, no not so much as to pay their seruants, and workmen wages. They will not let any terme, aboue xxi. yeeres or three liues, and the demaund for rent xii. d. the Acre : this is so farre from the meaning of her Maiestie, as appeareth by her highnes graunt, that (as I think) they haue, or shortly wil make al their estates voyde. They find such profite from the Irish tenantes, who giue them the fourth sheafe of all their corne, & xvi. d, yearly for a beastes grasse, beside diuers other Irish accustomed duties. So that they care not although they neuer place any English man there. But the better sorte of vndertakers being many good knights and gentelmen of great worship, do seeke by all meanes possible to plant their landes with English mē according to the meaning

meaning of her Maiesties graūt: they offer to any man either three hundredth acres of land in feefarme or foure hundred acres by lease for one hundred yeeres, for vi d. the acre without any fine.

Sir Richard Greenfield taketh a very good order for artificers and labourers. he will let any poore man of honest behauour a house, xl. acers of land and vi. milche Kyne for xl. s. the yeere, for the terme of three liues: and if any of these men after they haue bread on the same stocke a sufficient number of cattell to store their ground, doe deliuier their stocke again then shall they pay but xx. s. rent for the rest of their termes. And if any of the said Kine be stolne, and the owner doe track which way they were driuen from his ground, the said sir Richard will deliuier him so many Kine for them, for that the lawe is there; if you track any stolne goodes into any mans land, he must tracke them from him, or answerē them within xl. daies, so where the tracke ceaseth, the goodes must be answered.

A man may be aswell and cleanly tabled at an English house in Ireland for the profit of fīue Kine and fiftie sheepe, al which will be bought for vii. li. x. s. and for the rent of so much land as will keepe them, which is xx. s. the yeere, as at the best ordinarie in England for vi. d. a meale. al which amounteth but to xxxv. s. vi. d. ayeere, accounting ii. s. in the pouē for interest of the stocke. Women may be borded for the profite of foure Kine. xl. sheepe, and xvi. s. rent. Seruants for iii. Kine. xxx. sheep, and xii. s. rent. Children for ii. Kine, xx. sheepe, and viii. s. rente. Thus may a man that is xii. in houshold, viz. Himselue, his wife ii. seruantes, and viii. children be very well tabled a yeere for the profite of xxxi. Kine, iii. C. x. sheepe, and vi. li. x. s. rente: al which stocke will be bought for lesse then lx. li. The vse wherof being vi. li. the whole charge of a yeere for xii. persones is xii. li. x. s. which is xx. s. x. d. a peece. This hath not bene long vsed there, but now that Englishman thinketh himselfe happy that can make such a bargaine with an honest man: for although that which is not euery way to the guest aboue xii. li. x. s. may make the host with good husbanry more thē a hundred markes.

One hundred poundes will buy lx. milche kine, CCC. yeawes, xx. swine, and a good teame: the ground to keepe these cattell, and vse this teame on, will be CCCC. acres at x. li. rent: so your yeerely charge will be with interest of your mony, xx. li. for the which you may haue yeerely vpon good securitie with warrant of your storke. Xl. firkins of butter, and fortie great wayes of cheese, of the  
milke

milke gathered betwixt May and Michaelmas, which at x s. the firkin, and xxv. s. the waye, is three score and ten poundes, and the wooll and lambe of your sheepe, cannot bee so little worth as xxx.li. a yeere, all which amounteth to one hundred poundes: so may you declare besides your interest and rent, eightie poundes a yeere.

To husband this farme, your tenaunt must keepe viii. persons, which may be well done with the profite of the swine, winter milke, caules and the cropte which he should get vpon your land with your teame.

Most of the coyne in Ireland, and that which the people generally desire is base money made of coper or brasse, they will not change you an angell into that money without iiiid. gaines: I would to God her Maiestie woulde coyne foure hundred thousand markes of the same, and lende it to the English marchants gratis for two yeeres, to be imploied ther in mather, woade, rape, hoppes, hempe, flaxe, and such other commodities, as might set some great number of our English men to worke: by which meanes (in my iudgment) the land might be very well peopled, her Maiestie disburthened of a great parte of her charge there, the marchantes made great gayners, and yet at the two yeeres ende paie her Maiestie her full summe in currant English money for that base mettell, whereby her Maiestie might gaine at least CC. thousand poudes without hurte to any, and good to many thousands. I haue sent you here inclosed an instruction how you shal mak a warren for conneies of two acres of ground, that shall bee sufficient for a gentlemans house, in which warrane, you may also make an Ortchyard, and the connies shal not barke your trees, nor make their berries vnder the rootes, neither shall the said connies goe forth of two acres. Thus with my hartie commendations, I bid you heartilye farewell. From my house at Poynes end, this xxv. of Iune. 1590.

*Your lloving freind Robert Paine.*

The copie of an instruction for a  
*warraine.*

*First, you must choose two acres of very drie ground, and compasse it with a ditch as round as a circle, fife foote deepe, and seuen foote wide: let the slope side of your ditch be towardes your warraine, and that wayes throw vp all your earth: let the out side be plum vpright, which you must presently payle, otherwise*

wise the earth will fall in : then plante your trees not aboue viii. ynches deepe, and at the least xxviii. foote asunder : lay at every roote close about the tree, as much pease strawe as a man will cary under his arme, the which will keepe the roote moyst in somer and warme fro frostes in winter. The best time to set your trees is shortly after Michaelmas : which verefieth an old prouerbe in Kent : if thou wilt a good tree haue, let him carrye a greene leafe to his graue. In the very middest of your ground you must make a little lodge, in the which you must haue eight seuerall hutches, so placed that they may be alwayes open into the warraine, in euery hutche you must tye with a little chaine a tame bucke connie of the best kinde : then store your warraine with 64. of the better sorte of tame female connies, which is for euery bucke viii. doas, euery weeke the first quarter: and then moonthly you must wash your trees with water, so high as a conny can reach, wherin you must burst the garbage of a connie. Also euery weeke you must drawe a peece of carraine at the foote of your payle in the bottome of your ditch round about your warraine, by which meanes your connies will neuer offer to touch your trees, nor com neere the payle to scrape them selues out. You must feede your connies with the shortest and sweetest hay you can get : you may giue the gras, & any hearbes or weedes : they will eate foure dayes in a weeke in sommer, and two daies in winter, but not aboue for feare of the rotte : yet let them haue haye enough at all times, you may fatte them with graines mixed with oates, brane, or French wheate : you must giue your connies every day one oate sheafe, which will alwayes keepe them hearty, sound, and fayre skinned. I doe account your charges in keeping your connies to be xx. markes a yeere : that is, your warrainers board and wages viii. li. and the connies meate v. li. vi. s. viii. d. the increase at an indifferent reckoning, will be seuen litters a yeere : euery connie of the best kind will bring vi. Rabbits at a litter. where one of that sorte bringeth fewer, two will bring moe, some will bring ix. litters in a yeere : and that doa is not worth the keeping, that bringeth not vii. litteres a yeere. The value of this increase after the aforesayd rates, and at viii. d. the couple, (which the very skinnes with good husbandrie of most of them will be worth,) amounteth to the summe of xlviij. li. xvi. s. a yeare. But for feare you should fayle in your reckoning, as the woman did that supposed all the egges in her basket were capons : I woulde haue you allow for casualties, xi. li. ix. s. iii. d. so resteth aboue all charges of the warrainer, and their meat, xx. li. by yeere de claro, which I thinke (being wel vsed) can yeeld no lesse : although this kind being bred in houses

*houses doe not eate sweet, yet being bred after this manner, they are both the biggest, fattest, and sweetest connies that are.*

There is on master Phane Beecher hath a greate parte of a proper country called *Kenallmechie*, about three myles from *Tymoleagne*, and vi. miles from *Kinsall*, both market and hauen towns the farthest not a myle from the maine sea: through this country runneth a goodly riuier called *Bandon* wherein is great store of fishes of sundry sortes, especially *Sāmons*, *Troutes*, *Eales*, and oft times *seales*. In this countrie is greate woodes the trees of wonderfull length which sheeweth the exelent fruitfulness of the soyle. This master Beecher (by meanes of his honest and plaine dealing, rather seeking to replenish his countrie with people according to her Maiesties graunt, then esteming any great gain to himself) hath gotten more sufficient tennautes into his said countrie then any other two that do attempt the like within the prouince of *Munster*. So wel do our countrie men esteeme of his word that of my knowledge, a dossen gentelman of good acompt haue dealte with him for v. hundredth Acres a peece onely vpon his report, none of the which neuer sawe the same, but there is no hope of any more land to be had of him, for he hath already to plesure his countriē mstraightned his demeanes, which I suppose he would haue done if he had had halfe the *Desmondes* lande. So many are desirous to Inhabbite with him: but he hath couenaunted with euery of his said tennautes to place others vnder them, by which meanes there are many small perselles of 50. 60. or some a hundred acres to be had as good cheape and vnder as good condicions as the best, for his speciaill care is that euery Inhabbiter there should haue as much libertie as a free-holder in *England*. He also hath ordained for his countrie a learned preacher, a free schoole and a good yeerely stypend for the releeuing of maimed souldiers, impotent, and poore aged persons, and for perpetuall continuance therof he hath abated euery of his tennautes at the least ii. d. rent for euery acre for euer, which others take & hath charged his owne demeanes with no lesse: so that yerfew yeeres be ended (if God blesse his proceedings) those partes wilbe more like a ciuell citie in *England*, then a rude countrie (as late it was) in *Ireland*.

Although the name of the Irishe amongst the ignorant is odious, yet how many haue any of you seene executed in *England* for treason, murder, or felonye and yet knowe their cases are scarce so wel fauored as ohters our nerer neighbours which dayly pestre our prisons and moonthly decke our gallouses, I canot denie but in the *Desmondes* warres were many Irish traitors, yet herein iudge

charitably : for such was the miserye of that time that manye weere driuen to this bad choice viz. That whether they would be spoiled aswell by the enemie as the worser sort of souldiers at home, or go out to the rebelles and be hanged which is the fairest end of a traitour. But as touching their gouernment in their corporations where they beare rule, is doon with such wisdome, equity and iustice, as demerits worthy commendations. For I my self diuers times haue seene in seuerall places within their iurisdictions wel near twēty causes disceded at one sitting, with such indifferencie that for the most parte both plaintife and defendant hath departed contented : yet manye that make shewe of peace and desireth to liue by blood doe vtterly mislike this or any good thing that the poore Irishe man dothe. wherfore let vs daily pray vnto almighty God to put into the heart of our dread soueraigne Elizabeth, that as her highnes is queene of so greate and fruitfull a countrie wherin her maiestie hath a great number of loyall and dutieful subiectes, to haue especiall care that they be not numbred nor gathered vp with traiterous rebels, neither that her maiesty wil vochsafe to tollerat traiterous subiectes to stand vpon any condition but only her gratiouse mercie : then would the hope of the rebels be soone cut off, and the good subiectes imbouldened to fech them in which now dare not so to doe for feare of after harmes,

With the eies of your minde you cannot viewe her maiesties able subiectes lesse then sixe millions of men, and one of them in his countrie is good innough for three wetherbeaten spainerds whom a fewe of our frostie nightes will make shrinke like rotten sheepe. yet thus much I must say for them, if almighty God for our contempt of his holye worde hath giuen them power against vs, as hee did the frogges against the Egypitanes, Then is there no forch able to resist them : (without that) I see no cause why we either in England or Ireland should feare them : but yet there is a foolish rumoure, that sir William Standly with the spanish Kinges force wil enter Ireland, and that the Irish people who loued him wil take his part. No doubt he was welbeloued there : but I thinke rather for his Iustice and good dealing amongst them before he was suspected of trechery, then for any matter of false consperacie either to prince or cuntrie I doe thinke that Sir william then knewe not ten traitours in all Ireland : for howe durst any rebell make his villanous intent knownen, to a man so famous for true seruice as in those daies he was accounted ? But suppose that hee doe come. what is hee to the last greate Earell of Desmonde, who had greater followers then Sir Willam is, and the King of spayne his purse more plentifull then

then he can haue it? yet did not the said Desmonde bring his countrie to that meserie that one did eate another for hunger, and himselfe with all his posterite and followers to vtter ruinne. Can the Irish so soon forget such great distrease, and be drawē into the like action with a meaner man? surely no. For the better sort will bring in their owne brothers if they bee traitours, and therefore vnlke to ioyne with a stranger, although they loued him for his vertues. He is a simple Irish man that cannot tel you that the spanyardes loue treason, but deadly hateth traitours. I thinke it be true the Irish would gladlye haue their publike masse agiane: but they had rather continewe it in corners, then to heere it openlye in fetters and chaines as the poore Indians do. The Irish is as wise as the spaniard is proud, and there is no grife more to the wise man then to liue in bondage to the proud man: the very name of the spaniard in respect of his pride and tirannie, is odious to many nations whom they neuer hurte, but in Ireland they seemed to doe some harme, or els the Irish did them wrong to take so many of their heads for recompence. An humbler nation thē the spaniardes would not so quickly forget such measure as they receiued this other yeere in Ireland: and that the Irish (who can be warned by others mens harmes) know right wel. For vntill the spaniardes tiranie in the west Indians bee wrapped vp in obliuion, the Irish will speake them faire, but trust them nothing at all, vntill their heade be off.

I find by experience that a man may store 1000. acres of wood land there for thirtie poundes bestowed in swine, which being wel husbanded wil yeld more profite then so much like ground in England of x. s. the acre and fие hundred pound, stocke. for in the Irish wood landes there is great store of very good pasture and their mast doth not lightlye fayl, their swine wil feede very fat without any meate by hand. 30. li. will buy 30. bores and 200. sowes with piggs, the increase of which wil bee sufficient for 1000. acres accounting but ii. litters in the yeere and v. pigges to the litter, which is littell more then halfe the increase that swine commonly bring forth. Swine will not be full growen before they be two yeeres old: so the first yeere you can kill but your old store and after according to the aforesaide rates 2000. euery yeere very neare two yeeres old a peece, the flettes whereof cannot be so little worth as iii. s. iiiii. d. a peece in England which amounteth vnto 1000. markes *per An.* besid the offel, suet & grease, which we esteeme the one third parte of the value, which wil discharge rent, salt and boord, and the charges of three personnes to tēd them, and the shipp-

ping with warranties into England. you may haue the carkeyses of fat biefes for their grasse, so you buy them in winter when the price is aboute xii. s. a peece, which their hides and tallowe when they are fatte are well worth. you may haue connies vi. for iii. d. sterling, which their skines are well worth, this plentie is onely by the meanes of their small priced land. But if they should deduct x. s. for euery acres rent, then could not these commodities be aforded better cheape then the like are worth in England. There is not that place in Ireland where anye venomous thinge will liue. There is neither mol, pye, nor carren crow : there is neither sheepe dieth on the rot nor beast on the murraine.

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## N O T E S.



## NOTE S.

### *Title page.*

**N**ich, Gorsan.—We learn from the title page of the first impression, that this person lived at *Trowell*, a small village in Nottinghamshire. See what has been said of the first edition in the Introduction.

### *Page 3, line 27.*

*Grammer schoole in Limbrick.*—By the 28 Henry VIII. cap. 26, it was ordained that the English tongue be commonly spoken and taught to children in Ireland; and that every person who took orders in the Church, should keep a school in his parish for teaching the English language. And on the 26th May, 1570, at a Parliament held at Dublin, it was enacted, “That there shall be, from henceforth, a free school within every diocese of this realme of Ireland, and that the schoolmaster shall be an Englishman, or of the English birth of this realm.”—*Irish Statutes*, vol. i. pp. 119 and 361.

Camden informs us that J. Good, a priest, educated at Oxford, was schoolmaster at Limerick about the year 1566.—*Britannia*, fol. 1722, vol. ii. p. 1416.

### *Page 4, line 5.*

*Kernes.*—Were light armed footsoldiers, called by Henry of Marleburg, Turbici, and by others, Turbarii; they wore head-pieces, fought with darts or javelins, to which a thong was fastened, and also carried swords, and knives or akeynes, [Sgian]. In war their music was the bagpipe.—*Ware's Antiquities of Ireland*, by Harris, p. 161.

### *Page 4, line 15.*

*Lanster, Canath.*—Leinster and Connaught.

### *Page 4, line 16.*

*Orwrmwood.*—This country now constitutes a large portion of the northern part of the county of Tipperary, and is divided into the baronies of Upper and Lower Ormond.

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In the Irish language it is called *Up Mumhan*, East Munster. Camden tells us that by many it was very corruptly called *Wormewood*.—*Britannia*, vol. ii. p. 1348.

*Page 4, line 17.*

*Deasmond*.—This country comprised a part of the present counties of Cork and Kerry. “It was divided into three tracts. 1st, Clancare, [Clancarthy], which lay next the sea, between the bay of Dingle and Kilmaire [Kenmare] River. 2nd, Bear, lying between that river and Bantry. And 3rd, Iveragh or Evaugh, [Ivehagh], situated between Bantry and Baltimore. There was also another part of it, which lay near the Shannon, being the small barony of Iratconner, [Óipeacé uí conchoibh]. Desmond, [*Dear Mumhan*] signifies South Munster.”—*Smith's Cork*, 2nd Edit., vol. i. p. 22.

*Ibid.*

*Carrey*.—i. e. Kerry.

*Page 4, line 20.*

*Kennory*.—Or Kenry, [Caenparige], a barony in the county of Limerick, on the bank of the river Shannon, and lying west of the city of Limerick.

*Ibid.*

*Coneologh*.—Or Connello, [uí Connall Gabra]. There are two baronies of this name in the county of Limerick; Lower Connello extending to the west of Kenry, and Upper Connello lying to the south of the former, which appears to be the district mentioned by our author.

*Page 4, line 24.*

*This land belonged some [time] to the Knight of the Valley*.—About the year 1569, Thomas Fitzgerald, Knight of the Valley, otherwise Knight of Glin, and his son Thomas, were indicted and found guilty, for having committed sundry murders, burnings, &c. Thomas, the son, was executed at Limerick before Sir Thomas Cusake, Knt., her Majesty's Commissioner. The father was pardoned on account of some doubt concerning the Statute which made burning of houses treason in Ireland; and at a parliament held at Dublin on the 23rd February, 1569, an Act was passed, entitling her Majesty to the lands, &c., in Munster, belonging to Thomas Fitzgerald, Knight of the Valley, in the county of Limerick, and Thomas, his son and heir at law apparent, who had been executed.—*Irish Statutes*, vol. i. p. 340.

*Page 4, line 29.*

*The Jury is halfe English and halfe Irish*.—This mode of trial, in legal phraseology, is termed a jury *de medietate linguae*. The English Statutes on this subject, 28 Edw.

Edw. III. c. 13, and 8 Hen. VI. c. 29, which were extended to Ireland by Poyning's Law in 1495, have been repealed by 3 & 4 Will. IV. c. 91 ; and by sect. 37 of the same Act, *Aliens* indicted for any felony or misdemeanor are entitled to a jury *de medietate linguae*.

The evidence of our author on this subject might have been of some advantage to Timothy Brecknock, who was tried for murder at Castlebar, 12th June, 1786 ; when he was arraigned he claimed his right as an Englishman, and therefore an alien, to have a jury of *Medietas linguae*, and stated that he did not rest his claim on the Statutes of Edward III. or Henry VI., but on the older law of Athelstan, called *Pax inter populum et Regem*. The Lord Chief Baron, [Yelverton, afterwards Viscount Avonmore,] overruled the point, and said, “the people of Ireland and England speak one tongue, have one common language, and are governed by one common Sovereign ; and let it not go abroad, that Englishmen are considered as aliens in this kingdom.”—See *Trials of George Robert Fitzgerald, and others, for murder*. 8vo. Dublin, 1786. Page 155.

*Page 4, line 30.*

*Arrant bayliffs*.—Or “Bailiffs errant, are those whom the Sheriff appoints to go up and down the country to serve writs and such like.”—*Blount's Law Dictionary*.

*Page 5, line 4.*

*The generall Map of Ireland, which is joyned with the old Map of England, is most false*.—The author's remarks appear to have reference to the map of England and Ireland published by Gerard Mercator in 1584, in his edition of Ptolemy's Geography.

*Page 5, line 18.*

*Some mistrust that the Spaniards will enter the land*.—This anticipated invasion was realized in September, 1601, by the landing of four thousand Spaniards at Kinsale, in the county of Cork ; and in November following two thousand more landed at Castlehaven, in the same county ; they were joined by the disaffected in Munster, together with O'Donnell's army and the forces of Tyrone. In December they were defeated with great slaughter by the Lord Deputy Sir George Carew, and shortly after took their final departure from Ireland.—*Ware's Annals of Ireland*, fol. 1705, A.D. 1601.

*Page 5, line 25.*

*But their entertainement this last yeere amongst the Irish.*—This alludes to the heavy losses sustained by the remnant of the Spanish Armada in September, 1588, on the coasts of Ireland, “where some were killed by the wild Irish, and others by the Deputy’s command, lest coming on shore they should join with the rebels against the State.”—*Harleian Miscellany*, vol. v. p. 132.

*Page 6, line 2.*

*Booke of the Spanishe Cruelties.*—The work referred to is, “The Spanish Colonie, or briefe Chronicle of the Acts and Gestes of the Spaniards in the West Indies, called the new World, by Bart. de las Casas, or Casaus, Englished from the Spanish by M. M. S. Quarto, 1583.”—*Ame’s Typog. Antiq.*, vol. ii. p. 1202.

*Page 6, line 10.*

*For that they will not once haue in their mouth the prayer for our Queene.*—The Editor is unable to say what form of Grace was used in the reign of Elizabeth; but in the Primer of Edward VI., printed 1552, the “Grace after Dinner” concludes as follows:—“God save our Kyng, and the Realme, and sende us peace in Christ, Amen.”

The celebrated Primate Ussher was accustomed to use “a set form of prayer” at his own table, and also to pray for the Royal Family, a custom commonly omitted in his time.—*Bernard’s Clavi Trabales*, 1661, p. 61.

May not the custom of giving the “Church and Queen” as the first toast after dinner, in our times, be derived from those of Henry VIII.? when the Grace after Dinner, as published in his Primer, concluded with the words, “God save the Church, our King and realme, and God have mercy upon all Christian souls, Amen.”

*Page 6, line 22.*

*Woad.*—This plant, (*Isatis tinctoria*), is cultivated on account of the blue dye which it affords.

*Page 6, line 24.*

*To reave.*—That is to “rive” or split.

*Page 6, line 27.*

*II. d. ob.*—Two-pence halfpenny, “Obolus est pondus trium Kirat [carat]: Kirat ponderat quatuor grana hordei: ergo obolus ponderat 12 grana hordei,” *Du Cange sub voce*. And hence, from its original signification of half a penny-weight, it was by metonymy applied to denote a half-penny.

*Page*

*Page 6, line 27.*

*Iron stone*.—Is found in many places in Ireland, and shortly after the arrival of the English settlers in the time of Elizabeth, iron works were established. The Earl of Cork is said to have realized above one hundred thousand pounds by his works in Munster.—*Boate's Nat. Hist. of Ireland*, ch. xvii. sect. vi.

*Page 6, line 28.*

*Bogge myne*.—“As the name itself doth shew, is found in low and boggie places, lying not deep at all, commonly on the superficies of the earth, and about a foot in thickness. This oar is very rich in metal, and that very good and tough. Whilst this oar is new, it is of a yellowish colour, and the substance of it somewhat like unto clay, but if you let it lye any long time in the open air, it falleth quite to dust or sand, and that of a blackish or black-brown colour.”—*Boate*, ch. xvi. sect. iii.

*Page 6, line 30.*

*Lead ore*.—The first mine which was *worked* to any extent in Ireland, is situated on the side of the mountain, near the village, called “The Silver Mines” in the parish of Kilmore, barony of Upper Ormond, in the county of Tipperary. It was discovered about the year 1612. Donough O'Brien, Lord President of Munster, used some of the lead produced by this mine, to cover the castle which he was then repairing at Bunratty, in the county of Clare. It was afterwards discovered that each ton of lead from this mine yielded about three pounds weight of fine silver, which sold in Dublin for five shillings and two-pence the ounce. The lead brought from eleven to twelve pounds the ton. The King had a sixth part of the silver, and a tenth of the lead, and the clear profit to the proprietors was estimated at two thousand pounds sterling yearly.—*Boate*, ch. xviii.

*Ibid.*

*Wood sufficiente, &c., for euer*.—It is well known that Ireland in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries abounded in timber, but few districts can now boast of the remnant of a wood, although many places by their names indicate the situation of the woods which formerly adorned this country.

*Page 6, line 32.*

*Winchester measure*.—By the 12 Hen. VII. c. 5, a bushel should contain 64 lbs. Troy weight; in 1696, the standard bushel was found to contain 2145.6 cubic inches

of water; and in 1697 the legal "Winchester bushel" was eighteen and a half inches wide throughout, and eight inches deep.—*Rees' Cyclop.*, Art. **BUSHEL**.

*Page 6, line 35.*

*A fat Pigge . . . . . for a penny.*—A young one such as is used for roasting.

*Page 7, line 8.*

*Samphier is a present remedie against the stone.*—This plant (*Crithmum Maritimum*) is abundant on the coast of Ireland; its use in urinary diseases was not peculiar to the Irish physicians, for we find mention of it in a very ancient writer, "Radix, semen, et folia (crithmi) incocata vino, potu urinæ difficultati, et regio morbo auxiliantur."—*Dioscorides a Matthiolo, Venetius*, fol. 1565, p. 488. *Regius morbus*, according to Castelli, signifies jaundice.—*Lexicon Medicum sub voce Regius*.

*Page 7, line 18.*

*S. Andrewes tide.*—The 30th of November.

*Page 8, line 4.*

*Sir Richard Greenfield.*—Or Greenville, the son of Sir Roger Greenville, of Stow, in Cornwall, Esquire of the body to King Henry the Eighth, was born probably about 1540. He obtained leave from Queen Elizabeth in 1566, with others of his countrymen, to serve in the imperial army in Hungary against the Turks. Upon his return he engaged in the troops employed for the reduction of Ireland, where he displayed much courage and prudence, and in 1569 obtained the appointment of sheriff of the city of Cork. In 1591 he was appointed vice-admiral of the fleet fitted out for the purpose of intercepting a rich Spanish fleet coming from the West Indies; and in an engagement against a very superior force, he received a wound of which he died in a few days after.—*Biographia Britannica*.

Sir Richard Greenfield was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1577, as appears from Deering's Alphabet of English Knights, a MS. in the Office of Arms, Dublin; and Smith states that the barony of Kinalmeaky, in the county of Cork, was granted by Queen Elizabeth "to Greenville and Beecher, English Undertakers."—Vol. i. p. 235.

*Page 8, line 11.*

*For that the lame is there, &c.*—Mr. Eugene Curry, who is intimately acquainted with the ancient Irish manuscripts, has obligingly communicated the following extract (and translation) from the Brehon Laws.—*MS. Trin. Coll. Dublin*, H. 3, 18, fol. 159.

"Cin gac' foiglaó do óena duine, aíc duine do tairbheád, aíp a tigearna ag ambia; aíc cin páib aig, aigur muna páib aig a íc da fine. In tinead a mbeirtear lorg na gaoi

Ճարտ մունա քենան լօրց նա ճարտ առ ծվա ուն ո տուն քաօմած, իւ նա ճարտ օրդա  
Քենաշ մունա բա Յօշապ օօթան շատրա, ո տած ըրաւած էրիմ ին բա Յօլց ա քալած,  
Այս տարեած լի էր ո լր տարօտ մար ա տարամար ումանն."

"The responsibility of every transgression that a person is guilty of, except murder, falls on the Lord whose dependant he is, if he is able to pay; but if he is not, his tribe are obliged to pay it. The people of the place to which the track of stolen cattle is traced, unless they can shew the track away from themselves, or restore them, are liable to pay for the theft, unless the road may be the common walk of cattle, or that it is hard and dry, in which the track would be likely to be imperceptible, and then it amounts but to ground of suspicion."

*Page 8, line 30.*

*A hundred markes.*—Or £66 13*s.* 4*d.* The mark was a mode of computation introduced into England by the Danes. The silver mark in 1194 was equal to one hundred and sixty pennies, or thirteen shillings and four pence, which valuation is continued to the present time, in those payments which are regulated by that denomination of money, such as legal fines, &c.—*Ruding's Annals of the Coinage*, 2nd Edit. vol. i. p. 307.

*Page 8, line 35.*

*Wyses of cheese.*—The weigh, way, or wey, *waga*, a weight of cheese containing two hundred and fifty-six pounds avoirdupois. In some places, as in Essex, the weigh of cheese is three hundred pounds.—*Rees' Cyclopaedia*, Art. **WEIGH**.

*Page 9, line 9.*

*Most of the coyne in Ireland . . . . is base money.*—Shillings and groats were the only base money of Elizabeth then current in Ireland; they were issued to a large amount in the beginning of her reign, and consisted of one part of silver and three of alloy. In 1561, shillings and groats of silver, nearly of equal fineness with her English money, but of less weight, were coined for this kingdom.—*Simon on Irish Coins*, p. 36, and Pl. 6, figs. 116, 117, 118, 119.

*Page 9, line 10.*

*An angell.*—Or Noble Angel as it was called, because it was of the same value as the original Noble, was first introduced into the British coinage in 1465; it was so denominated from having the figure of an angel on the reverse, its value was six shillings and eight pence, and in 1572 it was raised to ten shillings.—*Ruding*, vol. iii. p. 56.

*Page*

*Page 9, line 13.*

**Mather.**—Or Madder, (*Rubia tinctorum*), is not an indigenous plant, but is cultivated on account of the red dye which it affords.

*Page 9, line 20.*

*An instruction how you shal mak a warren for conneies.*—In the spring of 1840, a rabbit warren on a small scale was constructed in the gardens of the Royal Zoological Society, Phoenix Park, Dublin, under the superintendance, and at the suggestion of Robert Ball, Esq., the able and zealous Secretary of the society.

The striking similarity of this warren, with the plan recommended so long ago by our author, induced the editor to apply to his friend Mr. Ball, from whom he has learned, that for many years he had contemplated making a warren, but no opportunity offered until the Council of the Society agreed to carry his proposal into effect.

The impression on Mr. Ball's mind is, that he had read Payne's description, when a boy, at the house of a friend in the county of Cork, where was preserved a library of curious old books, all of which, it is to be regretted, have disappeared from the house of his friend.

*Page 10, line 21.*

**French wheate.**—Buck wheat (*Polygonum fagopyrum*) according to Gerarde is called in English, *French wheat*.—*Herbal*, fol. 1636, p. 89.

*Page 10, line 34.*

**De claro.**—In the clear, or so much profit.

*Page 11, line 3.*

**Master Phane Beecher.**—The Editor is indebted to Sir William Betham for a copy of the abstract of the grant to Phane Beecher, of London, who, “on the 30th September, 1588, received from Queen Elizabeth the Castle of O'Mahony *alias* O'Mahownes Castle, and the moiety of all the county of Kilnalmeky *alias* Kinamechi, and the moiety of all the landes and hereditaments therein, 14,000 acres at the yearly rent of £66 13*s.* 4*d.*”

Smith states that Fane Beecher, Esq., had a grant of 12,000 acres, and that in the year 1602, Sir Richard Boyle (afterwards Earl of Cork) purchased a great part of Beecher's seignory, on which he built the town of Bandon.—*History of Cork*, vol. i. p. 55.

This family is at present represented by Sir William Wrixon Becher, who assumed

sumed the additional surname and arms of Becher, in obedience to the will of his uncle, from whom he inherited an estate. Sir William was created a baronet in September, 1831.—*Burke's Peerage*, 1832.

*Page 11, line 4.*

*Kenallmechie*.—Or Kinealmeaky, is a small barony in the county of Cork, it was formerly a part of Carbery, and being forfeited by O'Mahony in the Earl of Desmond's rebellion, it was by Queen Elizabeth granted to Greenville and Beecher, English undertakers, by whom it was first planted with English, and then got the name of a barony. It afterwards gave title to the noble Lewis Boyle, Lord Viscount Kinalmeaky and Baron of Bandon-bridge, who was slain at the battle of Liscarrol in 1642.—*Smith's Cork*, vol. i. p. 235.

Smith says, that from Flan descended Beake, from whom, according to the Munster annals, the territory of Kinalmeaky took its name, which signifies the head of the noble root. From *cenn* a head, *necl* noble, and *meacan* a root; in old Irish probably alluding to this sept of the Mahonys.—Vol. i. p. 24. In the preceding page he says, “Those Mahowns derive their pedigree from Kean Mac Moyle More who married Sarah, daughter to Brien Boruma, King of Munster, by whom he had Mahown, the ancestor of all that sept.”

The Editor is indebted to Mr. John O'Donovan for the following remarks:—“Nothing can be more erroneous than the derivation given by Smith in his History of Cork, for the name Kinalmeaky; it is taken altogether from the English spelling, and shews that the writer never saw the word in the original Irish, where it is spelled *cineal m-ōece*, and signifies *the race of Bece*; the *b* being eclipsed in pronunciation by the *m*, it is pronounced nearly as *Kinalmeaky*, for the *c* in Irish is always hard, and the *e* final is sounded. *ōece* is a man's name not uncommon among the ancient Irish, and was the name of the ancestor of the O'Mahony, as appears from the genealogies of the Munster families in the Books of Lecan and Ballymote, and in the Book of Duard Mac Firbis in the Royal Irish Academy, in which the genealogy of O'Mahony is traced up from Con, the son of Dermot More O'Mahony, Chief of Hy. Eachach through twenty-four generations to Bece, who flourished in the seventh century, and from whom the tribe name was derived. The territory of *Cineal m-ōece* is mentioned in the genealogies, and in the topographical Poem of Giolla na Naomh O'Heerin, or O'Huidhrin, who died A. D. 1420.”

*Ibid.*

*Tymoleagne*.—Or Timoleague, (the *u* is inverted in the original) i. e. *tig* or *teac*  
*Molaga*

Molagga, the house or residence of St. Molagga, whose festival day, according to Colgan, is on the 20th of January—*Acta Sanctorum*, p. 145: Molagga was the founder and patron saint of this place, which is situated on an arm of the sea, a few miles west of Kinsale, in the County of Cork.

*Page 11, line 6.*

*River called Bandon.*—This “goodly river” runs from west to east, through the southern part of the County of Cork, and falls into the sea at Kinsale.

*Page 12, line 20.*

*Sixe millions of men.*—If the author intended to estimate the Queen’s subjects in Ireland only, he has fallen into a great error; for the earliest census taken in this country is that of Sir William Petty, who, in 1672, found the entire population of Ireland to be only 1,320,000; and it is said that during the wars in the reign of Elizabeth, the population of Ireland was reduced to considerably less than a million.

*Page 12, line 26.*

*Sir William Standly.*—Or Stanley, was knighted by Sir William Drury, Lord Justice of Ireland, who died at Waterford in September, 1579. Shortly after, Stanley was in command of the garrison at Adair, in the County of Limerick; in 1584 he was Sheriff of the county of Cork, and in 1587 he left this country, together with one thousand men, who were sent to serve in the war in Holland,—*Cox’s Ireland*, fol. 1689, Pt. 1, p. 358, &c.—where he was made governor of the town of Deventer, in the Netherlands, which, in the same year, he betrayed, with its garrison of twelve hundred soldiers, into the hands of the Spaniards, for a sum of money.—*Hume’s England*, 8vo. 1807, vol. v. p. 328.

*Page 12, line 34.*

*The last greate Earell of Desmonde.*—Gerald Fitzgerald, the sixteenth and last Earl of a powerful and ancient family, had, during the early part of the Rebellion, affected to support the Queen, and gave his son as a pledge for his loyalty. His false pretences were, however, soon discovered by some of his followers, who were taken prisoners. The Lord Justice, Sir William Pelham, in October, 1579, caused letters to be sent from Kilkenny to the Earl, to induce him to repair to him, in order that he might renew his allegiance to her Majestie; but to no purpose, and accordingly he was proclaimed a traitor, on the second of November, 1579, unless he surrendered within twenty days.

On

On the twentieth of November, the Earl wrote a letter to the Lord Justice, stating that he and his brethren had entered into the defence of the Catholic faith, under the protection of the Pope and the King of Spain, and even advised his Lordship to join with him ; a few days after he addressed letters to such lords and gentlemen of Leinster, as he supposed were inclined to support him in his rebellion. He was vigorously attacked by the Queen's forces, and in the beginning of April, 1580, was dispossessed of all his castles ; in 1582 he was reduced to great extremities, and " was forced to keep his Christmas in *Kilquegg Wood*, near Kilmallock," and, finally, he took refuge in the wood of *Glanviginkey*, four miles from Tralee, where he was slain in November, 1583, by a common soldier of the name of Kolly [Kelly].—*Cox's Ireland*, Part I. p. 358, &c.

Thus terminated the career of this unfortunate nobleman. His head was sent to England, as a present to the Queen, who caused it to be fixed on London Bridge ; his body, which was concealed for eight weeks, was buried in the chapel of Killanaman, near Arnegragh, in the County of Kerry.

Her Majesty, in a letter dated fourteenth of December, 1585, " ordered that her well-beloved subject and soldier, *Daniel Kelly*, who slew the late traytor Desmond, for his very good services therein, should have, at least, for thirty years, without fine, so much of her lands, spiritual or temporal, as should amount to thirty pounds ster-ling per annum." This same Kelly, who was so liberally rewarded for his services, was afterwards hanged at Tyburn.—*Smith's Cork*, vol. ii. p. 64.

*Page 13, line 2.*

*One did eat another for hunger.*—This revolting statement is supported by Spencer, who was cotemporary with our Author.—*State of Ireland*, fol. 1633, p. 72.

*Page 13, line 8.*

*The Irish would gladlye haue their publike masse againe.*—The celebrating of the mass in Ireland was first abolished by Edward the Sixth ; it was restored in 1553, by Mary, and it was again put down by Elizabeth in the second year of her reign.—*Ware's Annals of Ireland*, A. D. 1559.

*Page 13, line 25.*

*Mast.*—The fruit of the oak and beech.

*Page 14, line 8.*

*There is neither mol, pye, nor carren crow.*—The mole (*Talpa Europaea*) has never been naturalized in Ireland; and as to the magpie (*Pica caudata*) our author is probably correct, for Derricke, who wrote in 1581, in his “Image of Ireland,” says,

“ No *pies* to plucke the thatch from house,  
are breed in Irishe grounde :  
But worse then pies the same to burne  
a thousande maie be founde.”

*Somer's Tracts*, 2nd Edit. 4to. vol. i. p. 582.

“ Ireland,” says Moryson, in 1617, “ hath neither singing nightingall, nor chattering *pye*, nor undermining *moule*.”—*Itinerary*, Part iii. B. 3, p. 160. And Smith, who published the second edition of his “History of Cork,” in 1774, says, “the magpie, or pianet, was not known in Ireland seventy years ago, but are now very common.”—Vol. ii. p. 330.

The earliest notice of this bird as indigenous in Ireland is in “Keogh's *Zoologia Medicinalis Hibernica*, Dublin, 8vo. 1739;” he merely mentions the “magpie, or pianet, *Hib. Maggidipyre*.” This evidently Anglo-Irish word, for we have no name for it in the ancient Irish language, favours the opinion held by our best informed naturalists, that this bird is of recent introduction into this country.

Of the *Carren*, or carrion crow, (*corvus corone*.) we have not any authority as to the date of its introduction into Ireland. Moryson says, we have not the “blacke crow, but onely crowes of mingled colour, such as wee call Royston crowes;” Part iii. B. 3, p. 160; and Smith tells us that “the common, or carrion crow, so called from its food, is very common in England, but more rare with us;” vol. ii. p. 929; and, according to Mr. Thompson of Belfast, “it frequents the coast chiefly through the northern parts.” The Irish word for a crow is *pionnóg*, which signifies the scare or scald crow, or royston crow, (*corvus cornix*.) which, according to Smith, is “a very common and mischievous bird” in Ireland. *Óaróib* also signifies the royston crow, or any ravenous bird.

*Page 14, line 9.*

*There is neither sheepe dieth on the rot, nor beast on the murraine.*—The Editor is unable to say, how long the “rot,” as a disease of sheep, is known in Ireland, but it is certain that it was known before our Author's time, for we have the word *leithe*, which signifies the “rot in sheep,” occurring in manuscripts of a very early date; and the “murraine”

"murraine" is frequently mentioned in the Annals of Ireland. In 1502, "A great murraine was in all parts of Ireland, which destroyed a world of cattle."—*Ware's Annals*, A. D. 1502. An earlier instance may be quoted from the Annals of Clonmacnoise, "A. D. 981. This yeare began the morren of cowes, called in Ireland moilegarie."—*Mac Geoghegan's MS. Translation, Lib. Trin. Coll. Dublin*, F. 3, 19., and it would be easy to collect many ancient authorities if it were worth while to search for them.



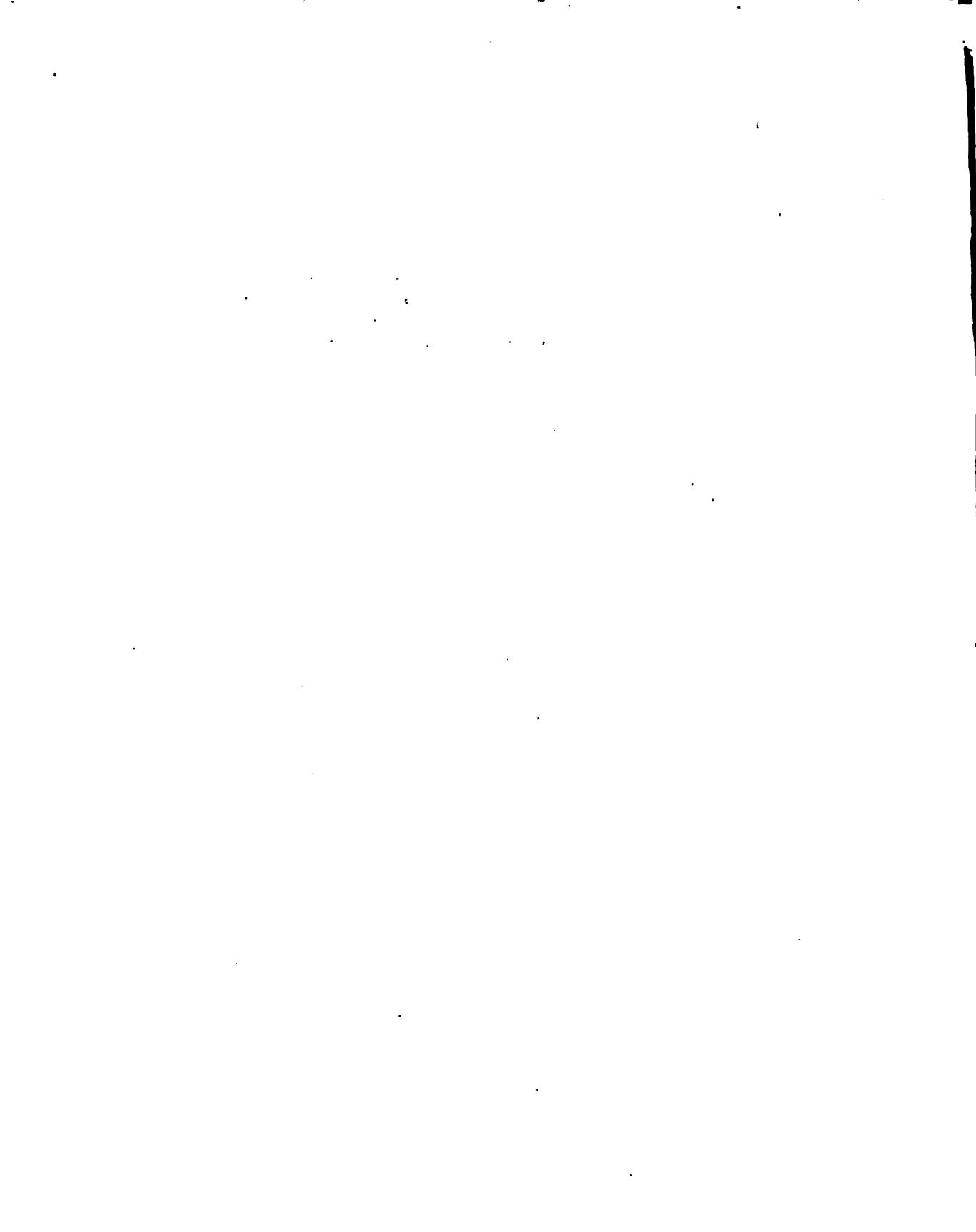
## I N D E X.

	<i>Page.</i>		<i>Page.</i>
<b>A.</b>		<b>D.</b>	
<b>A</b> Ssizes, . . . . .	4	Deer, price of a red, . . . . .	7
		DESMOND, Earl of, . . . . .	12
		Desmond, country of, . . . . .	4
<b>B.</b>		<b>E.</b>	
<i>Bandon</i> , river, . . . . .	11	Eggs, price of, . . . . .	6
Barley, price of, . . . . .	6		
Beans, price of, . . . . .	6		
BEECHER, Mr. Phane, . . . . .	11		
Beef, price of a fat, . . . . .	7		
Bog mine, or iron ore, . . . . .	6		
Bream, price of, . . . . .	6		
Butter, price of a pound, . . . . .	6		
———, price of a firkin, . . . . .	9		
<b>C.</b>		<b>G.</b>	
Carriage of goods to England, . . . . .	7	GORSAN, Nich, . . . . .	Title page.
Cheese, price of a waye of, . . . . .	9	Government as in England, . . . . .	4
Cockles, . . . . .	7	GREENFIELD, Sir Richard, . . . . .	8
Coin, . . . . .	9		
<i>Coneologh</i> , . . . . .	4		
<i>Cork</i> , . . . . .	4		
Corporations, . . . . .	12		
Cranes, . . . . .	7		
Crow, carrion, . . . . .	14		
Curlews, . . . . .	7		
		<b>H.</b>	
		Heath-cocks, . . . . .	6
		Heifer with a calf, price of, . . . . .	7
		Hen, price of a fat, . . . . .	6
		Herrings, price of, . . . . .	6
		Honey, . . . . .	7
		Horses, . . . . .	7
		Hospitality of the Irish, . . . . .	3
		House keeping, cost of, . . . . .	7
		<b>I.</b>	
		Idle people, . . . . .	4
		Interest	

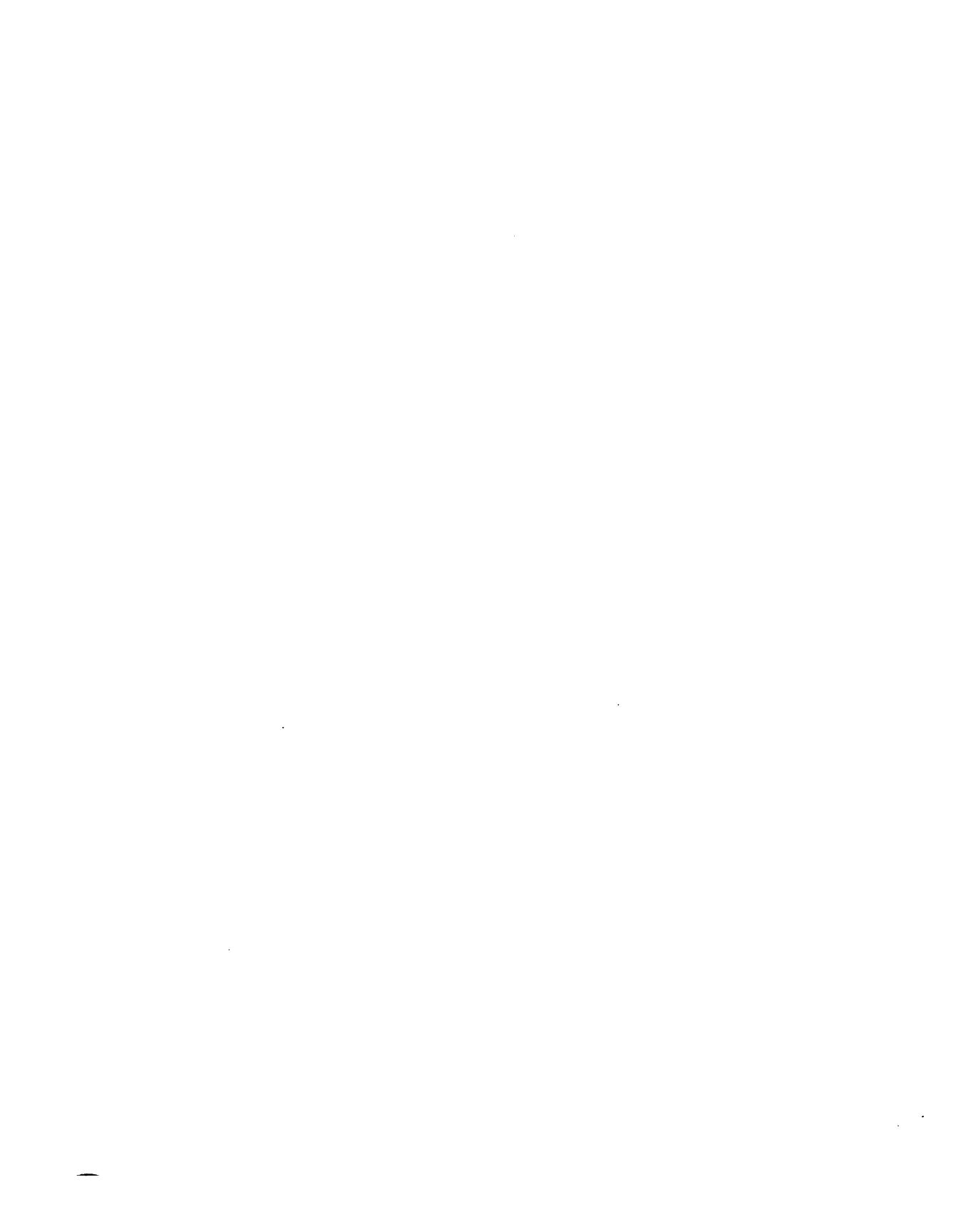
<i>Page.</i>	<i>Page.</i>		
Interest on money, . . . . .	8	O.	
Irish, character of the, . . . . .	3	Oak plank, price of an, . . . . .	6
Iron stone, . . . . .	6	Oats, price of, . . . . .	6
J.		<i>Orwwood</i> , or Ormond, . . . . .	4
Judges, . . . . .	4	Oysters, . . . . .	7
Jury, trial by, . . . . .	4	P.	
K.		PAIN, Robert, . . . . .	9
<i>Kenallmechie</i> , . . . . .	11	Partridge, . . . . .	7
<i>Kennory</i> , . . . . .	4	Peas, price of, . . . . .	6
Kernes, . . . . .	4	Pheasants, . . . . .	7
<i>Kerry</i> , . . . . .	4	Pig, price of a fat, . . . . .	6
<i>Kinsale</i> , . . . . .	11	Plovers, green and grey, . . . . .	7
<i>KNIGHT</i> of the Valley, . . . . .	4	Population of Ireland, . . . . .	12
L.		<i>Poynes end</i> , . . . . .	9
Land, rent of, . . . . .	8	Q.	
Law officers, . . . . .	4	Quails, price of, . . . . .	7
—— concerning stolen cattle, . . . . .	8	R.	
Laws, . . . . .	4	Rabbit warren, . . . . .	9
Lead ore, . . . . .	6	Rabbits, price of, . . . . .	14
<i>Limerick</i> , school at, . . . . .	3	Rails, . . . . .	7
Living in Ireland, cost of, . . . . .	8	Religion of the Irish, . . . . .	5
M.		Rent of land, . . . . .	8
Mackerel, price of, . . . . .	6	Rot in sheep, . . . . .	14
Madder, . . . . .	9	S.	
Magistrates, . . . . .	4	Salmon, price of, . . . . .	6
Magpie, . . . . .	14	Salt, price of, . . . . .	6
Malt, price of, . . . . .	6	Samphire, . . . . .	7
Map of Ireland, . . . . .	5	School at Limerick, . . . . .	3
Milk, price of, . . . . .	7	—— in Co. Cork, . . . . .	11
Mole, . . . . .	14	Soil, good for agriculture, . . . . .	6
Murraine, . . . . .	14	STANDLY, Sir William, . . . . .	12
Muscles, . . . . .	7	Stone in the bladder, remedy for, . . . . .	7
Mutton, price of a fat, . . . . .	7	Swans, . . . . .	7
		T.	

T.	<i>Page.</i>	W.	<i>Page.</i>
Tallow,	7	Warren, rabbit,	9
Tipperary,	4	Waterford,	4
Tymoleagne,	11	Wax,	7
U.		Wheat, price of,	6
Undertakers,	7	Woad,	6
		Woodcocks, price of,	7

*F I N I S.*







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3 2044 058 188 962

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